



"And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives...and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."

Nate Saint

Ruthless sacrifice means surrendering to Jesus completely.

I will refuse Him nothing.
Mother Teresa
"If God imparts Himself fully to us, shall we answer with just a fraction of ourselves?"

Luke 14:28-33

³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Ruthless sacrifice means taking the Jesus life seriously.

Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Ruthless sacrifice means reaping rewards eternally.

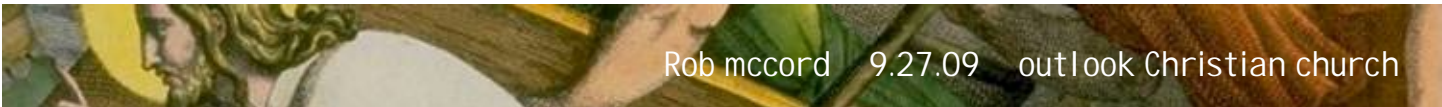
Mark 10:17-30


²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²⁸ ...Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"

²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

Jim Elliott
"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."





Taking up the Jesus challenge of ruthless sacrifice

Life group study

RELATE

What is the most expensive gift you've ever given?

Which of the following would be hardest for you to lose?

professional reputation	health
lifestyle	approval of peers
home	respect of family
freedom	citizenship
savings	privacy

What principle, insight or idea was meaningful to you from this week's sermon? What action, if any, did you decide to take as a result?

READ

Philippians 3:4b-14

What was Paul proud of before he became a Jesus follower? Is he boasting about them? How does he view his past life?

What was Paul's attitude toward losing these things? What did Paul gain that he considered more valuable? (V.8-9)

Paul understood that he had to lose these things in order to gain something more valuable. Do we still need to experience this today? What does that look like?

What changes or losses have you experienced as you have followed Jesus? How grateful do you

feel for the changes Jesus has brought about in your life?

What did Paul look forward to knowing and experiencing as he continued following Jesus? (v. 10-11) How can he consider such things valuable?

How can we share the experience of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection? Have you experienced any of these things?

Did Paul think that his sacrifice for Christ was done, or ongoing?

How did he see the nature of his life as he aged? Is that how you see the years ahead?

How is Paul's commitment to Christ an example to you?

REFLECT

Rob spoke of Mother Teresa's pledge to God "to refuse Him nothing." What is a way in which you sense God asking you to make such a commitment?

RESPOND

What do you need to "count as garbage" in order to experience the riches of knowing and becoming more like Christ? What next step of obedience will you take this week? Pray for each other that you will "refuse Him nothing."

