

Sacrificing

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I. Introduction.

A. To become a Christian requires some sacrifice in our lives.

B. Text: Luke 9.

II. One needs to decide once for all to deny himself.

A. This means that there will be times when one wants to do something but God will ask him to deny himself when there is a conflict of interest.

B. Taking up one's cross is on a daily basis saying no to self and yes to Jesus—we must “die” daily.

III. Anybody who desires to have all the pleasures in this life eventually is going to lose it; the person who decides to deny his pleasures will save his life.

A. Everybody dies.

B. Only one kind of life loses its meaning.

C. Few will lose their physical lives for Jesus—Christ is asking us to deny ourselves in a few areas for a guaranteed return.

IV. There is no profit to the man who gains everything in life but loses himself. If you refuse to deny yourself, your identity becomes wrapped up in what you do and your identity will be nothing in the next life.

V. Jesus will be ashamed of the one who is embarrassed of Jesus' words.

A. We want Jesus to be proud of us.

B. If you sacrifice, you will have much to show for it—an eternal identity and glory.

VI. You can pay now or later.

Application questions:

1. What kind of sacrifice does Jesus demand in the Christian life?

2. What are some practical ways this sacrifice often plays out?

3. How important to you is the affirmation of Jesus? What are you doing to assure that your daily life is one with which Jesus would be pleased?
