

OUTLINE • 3.2

- VI. To become a living sacrifice, you have to die to yourself and your own selfish ambitions.
 - A. A sacrifice is at the mercy of the person doing the sacrificing.
 - B. Dying to one's *self* isn't what fallen human beings naturally desire, and the majority of Christians are *still* that way.
 - C. Selfishness is how Satan gains access to you.
 - i. God had created a perfect world for Adam and Eve, but Satan tempted them to think He was holding something back.
 - D. All human beings start out selfish, but they don't have to stay that way.
- VII. I was doing all the *right* things for all the *wrong* reasons.
 - A. Then, the night of March 23, 1968, God showed me that my heart was all wrong.
 - B. I started confessing all of the self-centered things I was seeing about myself—all of the lust and hate that was in my heart, and the way I thought of other people.
 - C. I expected God to kill me because of how unrighteous I was, but instead of wrath and rejection, the tangible love of God came over me and changed my life.
 - D. I knew it had nothing to do with me—it was solely according to His grace.
- VIII. Not everybody is going to have the same kind of dramatic encounter that I did, but everybody needs to have a similar experience—a time when you make the decision to quit sitting on the throne of your life, trying to determine your own future.
 - A. Until you reach that place, God can't reveal His perfect will—or He certainly can't reveal the entirety of it—because you would go out and try to do it in your own strength and would end up getting hurt or hurting others.
 - B. It will take a period of time for you to be able to learn God's plan and for Him to work some things out in you.
 - C. Yielding to the Lord isn't a one-time decision—you have to keep making the choice to surrender.
 - D. As long as you are breathing, you have a self, and that carnal nature is going to seek to reassert its desires.
 - E. I haven't always loved God flawlessly and avoided all selfishness, but as soon as I see selfishness rise up in my life, I repent—"Father, I'm not going that way. Thank You for showing me."
 - F. I committed myself to God in 1968 and have not been uncommitted since.

- G. You can reach a place where you literally turn everything over to God, and that's all there is to it—a place where no matter what God tells you to do, you will do it without discussion.
- IX. When the Lord first called Jamie and me to go to Pritchett, Colorado, I didn't have any desire to go there, but the moment I was sure God wanted me to do it, I did it.
 - A. Once I committed to following God's leading to go to Pritchett, He put His desires in my heart, and I fell in love with the place.
 - B. I have discovered that most people aren't like that.
 - i. It's one of the reasons God hasn't revealed His will to them yet.
 - ii. It's also the reason they are struggling.
- X. It solves a lot of problems when you figure out there's only one God—and you aren't Him!
 - A. The heart of God's will for you is to be a living sacrifice, committed unto Him.
 - B. Once you reach that place, you will have to rebel against God to keep from seeing His good, acceptable, and perfect will come to pass in your life (Rom. 12:2).
 - C. Commit your life to Him, and you will prosper and have the favor of God.
 - D. God can direct your life better than you can (Jer. 10:23), so don't lean unto your own understanding (Prov. 3:5).
 - E. Most people want to skip fully submitting to God and move on up to the top of the ladder—they want to stride right into the center of God's will and see great things happen.
 - F. The reason there are people in ministry who wind up committing adultery and stealing money is because they didn't take the time to build a foundation of character and integrity.
 - G. Don't make that mistake by trying to get around becoming a living sacrifice.
- XI. Most people don't trust God to advance them in life because they're too busy trying to advance themselves.
 - A. In general, they demand respect and assert their rights in an attempt to make everyone around them realize how important they are, which is pretty much the opposite of being a living sacrifice.
 - B. Being committed to God doesn't mean you lay down like a doormat every time you are confronted with a problem.

- C. If God tells you to do something to change your circumstances, you need to do it, but you shouldn't be motivated by selfish desires.
- D. If you are living a totally selfish life right now, you have a lot of momentum built up in that direction.
- E. It's going to take God some time to turn you around and get you moving in the right direction.
- F. The starting point is for you to be willing to allow God to begin the change.
- G. Even after you make a commitment with all of your heart, you're still going to have a self to deal with.
- H. The only way you can get delivered from your carnal self is to die physically.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 3.2

20. What do you have to do to become a living sacrifice?

21. Discussion question: Why do you think the majority of Christians don't desire dying to self?

22. How did Satan gain access to Adam and Eve?

23. What happened after Andrew confessed all he did to God, and he expected God to kill him?

24. True or false: It had nothing to do with Andrew.

25. If you're sitting on the throne of your life, trying to determine your own future, what can't God do?

26. True or false: Yielding to the Lord is not a one-time decision.

27. Discussion question: Why do you think the carnal nature seeks to reassert its desires?

28. What does Andrew do when he sees selfishness rise up in his life?

- A. He welcomes it
- B. He denies it
- C. He repents of it
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

29. You can reach a place where you literally turn everything over to God—a place where no matter what He tells you to do, you will do it without _____.

30. What happened once Andrew committed to following God's leading to go to Pritchett?

- A. God didn't help him
- B. God changed His mind
- C. God criticized him for taking so long
- D. God made him His slave
- E. God put His desires in his heart

31. Discussion question: Why do you think people are struggling who aren't like that?

32. Discussion question: Once you are a living sacrifice, committed to Him, why do you think you would have to rebel against God to keep from seeing His good, acceptable, and perfect will come to pass in your life?

33. True or false: People who are committed to God don't necessarily have the favor of God.

34. Read Jeremiah 10:23 and Proverbs 3:5. Why shouldn't you lean unto your own understanding?

35. Discussion question: What are some reasons becoming a living sacrifice isn't optional?

36. Most people don't _____ God to advance them in life because they're too busy trying to advance themselves.

37. If you demand respect and assert your rights in an attempt to make everyone around you realize how important you are, what is that?

38. True or false: Being committed to God doesn't mean you lay down like a doormat every time you are confronted with a problem.

39. If you are living a totally selfish life right now, why is it going to take God some time to turn you around and get you moving in the right direction?

- A. Because God needs to teach you a lesson through it
- B. Because you have a lot of momentum built up in that direction
- C. Because God wants to take as long as possible
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

40. Even after you make a commitment with all of your heart, you're still going to have a _____ to deal with.

SCRIPTURES • 3.2

ROMANS 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

JEREMIAH 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

PROVERBS 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.