

Spiritual Discipline of Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 (TNIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship.

1. During the Old Testament, what was involved in making a sacrifice to God (see Leviticus 1-7 and/or a Bible Dictionary)? Ultimately, what was the purpose of these sacrifices?
2. How did the concept of sacrifice change after Christ died on the cross?
 - a. Reflect on Hebrews 10:1-10
 - b. Reflect on Hebrews 13:15-16
 - c. Reflect on 1 Peter 2:4-5
 - d. Romans 12:1 (our memory verse)
3. The widow who deposited two small coins into the Temple treasury has become the “poster child” for sacrificial giving (see Mark 12:41-43 and Luke 21:1-4).
 - a. What was it about her gift that made it so special?
 - b. The context reveals that Jesus was contrasting the widow with another group of people. Who was this group? Why was Jesus so disgusted with them?
4. The spiritual discipline of sacrifice involves giving more to God and his kingdom work than we are reasonably able to give.
 - a. Give specific examples of Christians that you know who have practiced the Spiritual Discipline of sacrifice with their finances?
 - b. Give specific examples of Christians that you know who have practiced the Spiritual Discipline of sacrifice with their time?
 - c. Give specific examples of Christians that you know who have practiced the Spiritual Discipline of sacrifice with their possessions?
 - d. How did they benefit from their choices? How did the people they served benefit?
5. Based on this lesson, how do you think God wants you to respond this week?