

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 5/25/2020-5/29/2020

The following content is based on the message on 5/24/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE OTHERS

Read Matthew 22:34-40. During the pandemic, we have been reminded of the power of sacrifice and its corresponding vice—selfishness. We've seen the good and the bad of humanity. For example, we've seen the sacrifice of frontline workers, and in contrast, we've seen others hoarding supplies. We are an individualistic culture, and so by nature we may find it more difficult to empathize with others when our own freedom and liberties feel like they are in jeopardy. As human beings, true freedom is not the right to do whatever we want, but the ability to do what we ought to do—what is right and good. Jesus commands us to love others the same way we would love ourselves.

Jesus boils life down to two things: Love God and love your neighbor.

- *How does the freedom to do whatever you want actually cause harm to others?*
- *Why do you think Jesus commands us to love others in the same way that we would love ourselves?*

TUESDAY // LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL

Read John 15:12-17. The best way to love someone is to sacrifice for them. It doesn't mean that every loving act has to be sacrificial. You can love without sacrifice; however in this passage, Jesus is saying that there isn't a greater way to love someone than to sacrifice for them. But what does sacrificial love truly look like? Sacrificial love is when we give up something that we have or that we love for the benefit of someone else.

There is great power in sacrifice because it most powerfully demonstrates our love for others.

- *Reflect on a time when another person (besides Jesus) sacrificed for you. What made that sacrifice mean so much to you?*
- *Set a timer for five minutes (or longer). Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you someone who you should show sacrificial love toward. Write down that person's name and ways that you can be sacrificial toward them.*

WEDNESDAY // SACRIFICE COSTS US WHAT WE HAVE

Read Psalm 24:1-10. Sacrificial love is when we give up something that we have for the benefit of someone else. For the Christian, it should come natural to give up something that we have for someone else. When we are contemplating whether or not we want to give something up, we would do well to remember that those things are

not ultimately ours in the first place. Everything that we own is God's. He just asks us to steward the gifts that we have been given.

We can either choose to be selfish or choose to be selfless with what we have been given.

- *Why do you need to reframe your perspective on what you have—your possessions, your family, or your talents?*
- *How should that perspective shift cause you to be more sacrificial?*

THURSDAY // SACRIFICE COSTS US WHAT WE LOVE

Read 1 John 3:16-18. Life, comfort, desires, money, time, health—most of us really value these things. That is why it is hard to give them up. There is a pain in losing them. When we give up something we value, it shows just how much we love someone else. Yet sometimes we come to the realization that we can't (or won't) give it up. If you're not willing to give something up for someone else—that sheds a light on what you actually love more.

We will give up something we love, for something we love more.

- *Reflect on what John said: "Let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and truth." In what ways does this statement feel so applicable for today's narrative?*
- *How is the Holy Spirit convicting you that you have been selfish with something that you have?*

FRIDAY // JESUS SACRIFICED FOR US

Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2. This section of Ephesians maps out some of the ways that Christians should love each other. The motivation for Christian love comes through the way that Jesus loved us. Jesus sacrificed his life for us to meet our greatest need—the forgiveness of our sins. His loving sacrifice enabled reconciliation between us and God. This means sacrifice is at the core of our faith. The heart of New City Church—our mission—is to be like Jesus. He set the example for us to do the things He did, think the way He thought, and to love the way He loved.

The hero of our faith gave us the greatest example of sacrificial love.

- *Set a timer for five minutes (or longer). Reflect on how Jesus sacrificed for you. How does this reflection change the way that you think about loving others today?*
- *Who is one person that you can sacrificially serve today? In order to keep yourself accountable, write out what are you going to do to serve that person.*