



Sermon Series Notes

“A Living Sacrifice” (Romans 12:1; Selected Scriptures)

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Intro: Let me share with you one of the most personally challenging Scriptures in all of the Bible. Read Romans 12:1. The ultimate act of worship is surrendering my body to the will of God. And why would I do that? I would only do it “in view of God’s mercy” (context 11:32-36). As we were reminded this past weekend, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by the grace and mercy of God. (Rom.3:23-24)

See I Cor.6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

I Peter 1:18-19 For you know it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

It is only reasonable, because Jesus sacrificed His body to save me, that I sacrifice my body to serve Him.

Now, back to Romans 12 for just a minute - Read verse 2. What is the pattern of this world? In short, to “do it my way.” Isa. 53:6 We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...

What is the pattern Jesus laid out for us? “Not my will, but yours be done.” See Hebrews 10:5-7.

God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will is sometimes realized sooner than later. But many times it is only realized after the mission God calls each one of us to is accomplished. See Hebrews 12:2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for any other way...but there was no other way.

I think all of us remember Jonah. What was God’s will for him? To go to Nineveh. That would be like God calling us to Iran! When Jonah refused to submit to God’s will, his “communion” with the Lord was cut off (see Jonah 2:4a).

Jesus told Peter what God’s ultimate will for his life was (John 21:18-19). Peter did not passionately embrace Jesus’ words! Read John 21:20-23.

Did you know that I know what God’s will is for your life (go to someone personally in audience). Now go back to Rom.12:1 and read it again.

Not long after I became a Christian, a message was given by my pastor (Milton Frazier), and at the end of the message he invited anyone in the congregation who was willing to surrender their lives to whatever God had for them - to go anywhere, to do anything, nothing held back, to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. I was 19 years old at the time. God soon afterward led me to what is now Liberty University. A five hour drive to Liberty was a BIG DEAL for me at that time. My first week of school I began to lose my hair; My dorm was a bankrupt hotel in downtown Lynchburg Va., and the water was pretty foul. I thought it was the condition of the water from the shower that was causing my hair loss. I had surrendered my body to God's will, and now he was taking my hair. Hey, you look at me now and think "What's the big deal?" But that's because most of you never knew me when I had hair. I looked something like this just before becoming a Christian (power point of Hayden's senior picture).

I remember on one of my trips back home to see my family in S.C. that I probably would never move back home. Eventually God called me here, and I was further from home than ever. But it was God's will for my life.

Tanner moving to Charlotte. Now, God's called my firstborn back to within an hour or so drive from where I grew up...

I was 19 yrs. Old when I surrendered completely to God's will for my life. Most of you here tonight are well beyond 19!

How old was Abram when he responded to the call of God for his life? See Genesis 12:4b.

Caleb spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness, but it wasn't his fault. Caleb and Joshua had faith 40 years earlier to enter the Promised Land and face the giants, but the people of Israel kept them from it as a result of their lack of faith. But when Joshua finally led Israel into the land flowing with milk and honey, here's Caleb's attitude, at age 85! (See Joshua 14:10-14).

Now pause with me just for a moment. Listen to Jesus' words from Luke 14:25-33. Jesus said things like this repeatedly.

I Cor.6:19-20

INVITATION

- Perhaps there's a Jonah here tonight. My advice to you is don't go swimming in the gulf anytime soon. If I were you, I wouldn't go swimming anywhere! In the end, Jonah submitted to God's will, but even then, he did it reluctantly. Even if you do it reluctantly, I encourage you – do it! It is your reasonable act of worship.
- Perhaps there's an Abraham or a Caleb here tonight. No matter your age, would you surrender your body tonight as a living sacrifice?
- Maybe there's a young person here tonight who will do what I did when I was young. If you do, you will one day discover God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.
- Song – "I Surrender All"