



greaterlove

SERMON OUTLINE 1

There are outlines for two sermons in this pack. They are designed to be used with the videos on the DVD, and illustrated with your personal and community stories.

SACRIFICE

Isaiah 53:7 (NIV)

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 15:13 (NIV)

Jesus said "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

INTRO

Sacrifice is at the heart of remembrance. At the heart of the Christian message is the theme of God's unparalleled sacrifice for humanity.

WAR AND SACRIFICE

Consider how, during WW1, sacrifices were made on many levels: individuals, families, communities and nationally.

Think about how the whole country made sacrifices for the benefit of the cause.

How do people in our modern society make sacrifices for the benefit of our community, society, country or world?

Consider the story of Amy Beechey (thelincolnshireregiment.org/beecheys.shtml) who lost five sons during the First World War. Her sacrifice as a mother was great; five sons killed and a sixth disabled for life. However, despite her great pride in her sons she was a reluctant heroine. On receiving an honour from Queen Mary, she said 'It was no sacrifice Ma'am, I did not give them willingly'.

KEY REFLECTIONS

As Christians we believe in a God whose nature is one of sacrifice. As people created in his image, something of that sacrificial nature is imbedded deep within us. This is why we see such acts of heroism, bravery and sacrifice in society. However, sin has polluted creation, atrocities happen around the world on a daily basis.

Jesus left his followers with a task though. To be people who model his ministry, seeking first his Kingdom, and stamping out the darkness. He called us to be salt and light – stopping the rot and shining His light on a better way to live.

The English philosopher Edmund Burke said, 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.'



We are called to lay down our lives for others. Sacrifice comes in many forms and does not necessarily lead to our death, but will always come at some cost. Could show **'What If'** or **'Woodbine Willie and The Menin Gate'** videos from the DVD.

APPLICATION

If we are to follow the example of Jesus, we should be laying our lives down daily for others, at home, work and in our communities. Give examples of those whose who go the extra mile.

There are many ways that the transforming message of the Gospel can be shown to our world. Are there illustrations from your community which show how sacrifice is for the greater good? Tell a story or a testimony, or show one of the videos from the DVD.

Have you got serving members of the armed forces in your congregation? Is the potential for their sacrifice something that is recognised?

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

How much are we prepared to pay as we lay down our lives to serve others? Given an opportunity to put the needs of others first – even people that you don't know and will never meet, how do you respond?

What stops you from stepping out and taking risks or making a sacrifice for others?

What are the areas in our lives that we still hold on to and have not yet given to God?

What are the potential benefits for you as an individual, family and church? Our treasure is in heaven – seek first the Kingdom not our own interests.

PRACTICAL TIPS

Use illustrations, from local projects or missions that you support as a church, of where individual sacrifice changes things for the wider community.