

• March 1 •

# DO SOMETHING "SACRIFICIAL GIVING"

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Christianity is a religion of sacrifice. In Mt. 3:17 when God saw Jesus being baptized he said; "This is my son in whom I am well pleased." What was it that pleased God about Jesus's baptism? Sacrifice! The way Christianity has spread and propagated inspire of insurmountable odds and severe persecution is sacrifice. The 12 apostles all died out side of their own country martyrs deaths. (Ej; Christianity in Iran; Syrian refugee's). Seeing the sacrifice of others does 4 things:

1. **Sacrifice encourages bravery**
2. **Sacrifice engages selflessness**
3. **Sacrifice establishes priority**
4. **Sacrifice emboldens similar sacrifice**

For this reason Paul holds up as an example to the Corinthian believers the sacrificial offering of the Macedonians. The church was started in persecution in Acts 17; Paul said that they had impacted not only Macedonia and Achaea but everywhere (1 Thes. 1:8) and now he is using their sacrifice to stimulate not only Corinthians believers, but all believers to sacrifice.

There are 3 phrases that describe how they gave sacrificially to God in spite of their desperate poverty. (1-3)

## **I. A Sense of Urgency (4a) They begged us...**

The reason they begged is because they realized the gravity of the situation. We are living in grave serious times; ISIS. What we are doing is not working in the Middle East, there are no political and military solutions to the problems we are facing, the only answer is the Gospel!

Coke in 150 yrs, 97% of the world!

Christianity in 2,000 yrs, 1/3 of the world still does not have access to Christ!

Mt. 24:14 "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all of the world as a testimony to all nations (peoples groups) and then the end shall come." Churches in Venezuela; Colombia and Cuba gave sacrificially for refugee;s in NIQ. First Christmas celebration; 2,500! Marco and Shiite community. Why? A sense of urgency. The Gospel message in itself has a sense of urgency.

## **II. A Shared Responsibility (4b) taking part...**

During WWII men fought on the front lines, woman worked in factories making bullets, children gathered metal to take to the factories for bullets. Food was rationed in order to free up more food for the men on the front lines. Shared Responsibility! (They sacrificed so that those that were in the battle could have the supplies they needed!).

Phil. 1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Phil. 4:15-16 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

Missions is not just the responsibility of missionaries, it is the responsibility of all!

### ***Financial Investment = Partnership = Shared Responsibility***

Churches in Cuba raising \$500.00 a month for every missionary when their own salaries are \$20.00.

As missionaries we had to make adjustments in our own lifestyle to not only mobilize, but share responsibility.

## **III. A Spirit of Worship (5b) they gave themselves first to the Lord**

Example of our sacrificial Christmas offering 100%

Rom. 12:1-2 Reasonable worship

In Jn. 17 Jesus stood looking at his own death and said "Father I have finished the work you gave me, I have glorified you, now glorify me" What was he talking about? The cross; his sacrifice.

When we take the Lords Supper, it is to remind us of that sacrifice

***"If your sacrifice does not modify your lifestyle; it is not really a sacrifice."***

Conclusion: Why are we giving today? For the sake of the Gospel. A Sense of Urgency; Shared Responsibility and a Spirit of Worship.