

A Sacrificial Heart



Most anyone who hears it in their heart to follow *Mashiach*, learns very quickly that it is not just spiritual joy and thrill, such as one imagines when thinking of Jesus Christ and His goodness and His many incredible works. When we think of how He lives in us and among us we can be ecstatic at the idea of serving Him. There is nothing wrong with that. However, very quickly in seeking to serve Him, one learns how real and thoroughly applicable are His profound teachings to us. We learn that sacrifice is what it is all about. Sacrifice to the deepest core of our being. We must have a sacrificial heart.

Just as Romans 18:8 tells us, ***“For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”***

Or Luke 9:23, where Yeshua Himself tells us ***“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”***

This teachings about living for Him go from theoretical to real. A life of serving Yeshua is nothing short of complete. He gave His life for us, we give portion after portion of our own to Him. It is devotion. It is carrying the cross with Him. It is sacrifice.



Not only that, but we see in the need to sacrifice through our ministry a chance to **share in His character**. This is something so abstract and good-sounding in scripture, but here is a real life application; being formed into his image, allowing ourselves to be bent down in order that He may be glorified, in order that the suffering and the lost may be aided. And isn't this an image of what He did even in becoming man?

Philippians 2:5-8 says, ***Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.***

Yes, and Matthew 8:20 tells us more of what we have to expect if we desire to come after Him:

“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Finally, Romans 9:21 instructs us on living our whole life as a sacrifice, telling us to ***“present your bodies a living sacrifice”*** and that this is nothing less than our ***“reasonable service.”***

So service, in a sense, is another chance to join ourselves with the Son of God. A chance to join in with His perfect sacrifice in a way. One person may end up seeking service through teaching, one through shepherding, others through aiding the poor, through prison ministries through counseling or any number of support positions to help make it possible. These all dwell within the sacrificial soul of *Mashiach*.



Sadly however, as I have written on in detail elsewhere, the kind of sacrificial heart demanded in ministry is dramatically different than the sacrificial heart which comes from Yeshua. One of the most obvious kinds of sacrifice that ministry desires is not of one's time, energies or labor, but rather a sacrifice of one's principles. Most ministries are so far gone from following the *Davar Elohim*

(Word of God) that it is nearly necessary to put a sign on their window, or maybe a pop-up on their website, to inform future ministers that they desire sacrifice, but a sacrifice of integrity, of truth, and of principles. You might even call it **a job qualification**.

Now since I want to get to my main point, I'm not going to go into great depth, many readers know what I mean anyway. Yet to give an overview, ministries have sold out on countless truths and nearly demand the same of anyone working for them. These truths include the need for Church discipline, the covenant nature of marriage and sin of remarriage, the God-given roles of men and women and the distinctions between them, common sense biblical modesty and even preaching about such central truths as God's wrath and our need for repentance. All of these and more are in part or completely ignored in modern ministries. Things are simply broken. That means its future servants and ministers, and janitors even could it apply, are being asked not to sacrifice as Yeshua sacrificed, -- **though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered (Hebrews 5:8)** -- but rather as anyone who sells out does. The men of God are asked to sacrifice their principles.



Therefore a man who desires to devote His life to service, will by necessity be demanded to shut up about the *Davar Elohim*. He will frequently be asked or demanded to teach utter falsehood. He will then deceive countless souls, many of whom are new in faith and more easily

misled. The man of God that brings this evil to light will also be demanded to keep silent or leave. Ministries, be they large churches or small charities, have built a business on blatant falsehood and would quake in their underwear at the thought of change. Change, in the direction of biblical truth at least, would mean fewer constituents. It would mean less money. In areas where church democracy is practiced, it would mean saying goodbye to your job. I've seen it personally myself in multiple domains. I've even known a few people on the inside who truly desired change, but were nearly always silent about that desire. You see, the servants and ministers are threatened into silence. It is like **a great silence from God.**



Now so as not to throw you into some horrendous depression as to the current brokenness of the Bride of Messiah, let me turn again from this false kind of sacrifice, and back to the Savior's kind which I began with. Because if we are to live in Him then we are to sacrifice. So in facing this nightmare of a collapsed *Kahol*, I am calling for sacrifice for the sake of restoring it. I am asking ministers and servants in particular, to make a commitment to truth even at the cost of their job, salary, comfort, popularity or retirement fund. I am asking you to speak the truth from *Elohim*, even if your constituents rebel. I am asking you to teach the rich and enlightening instructions from the Word, even if your superiors ask or demand silence. Practice **non-cooperation with evil, civil disobedience** and make a **commitment to truth and change**. You are not struggling alone. You are never alone. No matter how bad things look now (and I'm aware of how intractable the problem seems) God is the doer of ALL things and His grace is eternal and wondrous. Commit yourselves to truth and arm for battle. View yourself as a reformer. View yourself integrally as an agent for change. Arm for battle. If you shed your blood consider it an honor.

I realize there are some who from time to time DO try this approach, including those who try it and are forced to leave their ministry because of it. Blood really does get shed. That naturally leads to a second approach I ask you for. Whether you are currently a minister or servant, or

whether you simply desire to be one, please consider the alternative of acting independently, rather than under the leadership and headship of dreadfully corrupt people. I know that sounds underwhelming. I know it sounds like you might miss out on reaching more people in your work or having a full-time salary. However, let me ask you this – do you think God wants everyone who serves Him to have a full-time salary? Do you think God makes sure everyone with a good message gets to reach millions instead of thousands? If anything, to me it seems the opposite is true a lot of the time. So I am asking you, if necessary, to completely embrace acting independently, only with the *Davar Elohim* and the power of the Savior.



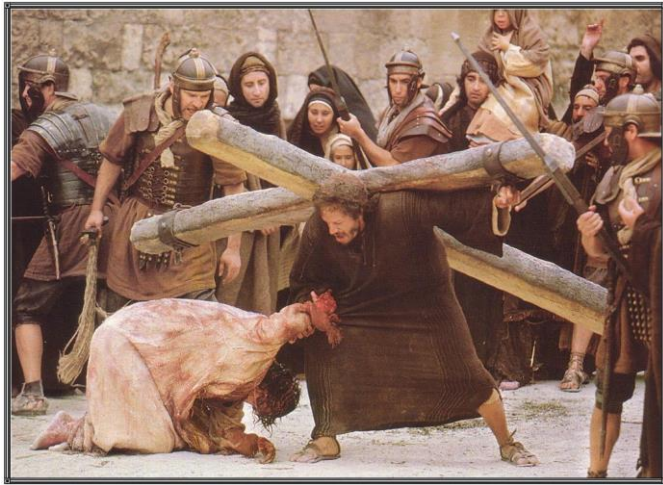
To give you a few example of what this means, when was the last time you stood out at the mall and **handed our tracts** or did preaching? When was the last time you **knocked on doors** in your neighborhood? When was the last time you **helped out the poor** in your own community, or **stood vigil** in front of an abortion mill? You can do all these things and many more independently. You do NOT need deeply corrupted people to do them for you. Moreover, the

internet and technology have made acting independently easier than ever. The amount of Gospel-sharing, teaching and apologetics you can do online simply through various forums and social media is extraordinary. In fact, the other week on social media I just met a random person halfway across the world. You know what I did? I shared the Gospel with them as best I could, then I gave them a link to one of the Gospels in their own language. Later, I can check with them and see if they want to hear more about it. It did not take a religious organization to provide me that opportunity. The opportunity was there through already existing companies and technology. I am asking you, ministers, servants and those longing to dedicate your lives to God to recognize this as an alternative. And what would you really rather do – speak lies to millions of people. Or speak the truth to thousands.



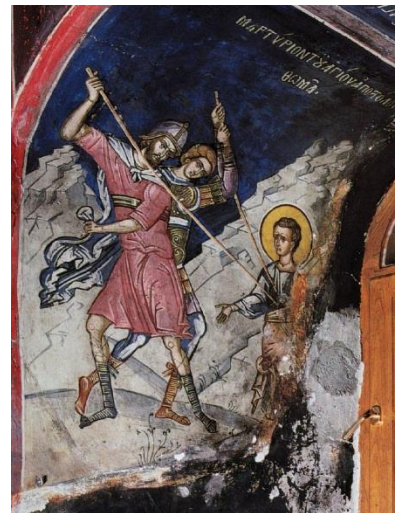
I know it's not an easy thing to think about the tidal wave of opposition there is in the Body of Messiah to God's teachings. Without the footing of Yeshua's strong foundation, it would make any man miserable. And it is true, one can meet with nearly as much opposition from the *Kahol*

itself as one meets from the unbelieving world and this is tragic. But I still ask you ministers to stand firm with the truth, nothing less, in your jobs. Do not be moved by threats or by sharp and poisoned arrows. I ask you who dream of going and serving the Savior not to expect stability or support, even though you may receive some. Do all you can to serve God, but do not compromise by allowing the truth to be shut up. Choose poverty over compromise.



In light of the eternal life we have been given, we should be honored even for the chance to suffer one moment for Him. **For to you it has been granted on behalf of Mashiach, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.** (Philippians 1:29) How many souls already have? I have personally heard those who have suffered inside of the Church for decades, the older men, who have watched good doctrine get torn to shreds, who are nearly for lack

of hope. They have my sympathies and I know some have fought hard. Do not give up. We still must remember the earliest apostles, who when they were condemned by the council in Jerusalem, departed from its presence, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**(Acts 5:41) They rejoiced at the honor of being condemned for Christ. What a great rejoicing that must have been. There are men even now, who may deeply desire to speak out within the *Kahol* for godly change, but their eye is on their future stability and they may already have heard threats. To you men I remind you of *Kefa's* words to us, **But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."** (1 Peter 3:14) Count everything else as rubbish my dear brothers, for the sake of gaining Christ. (Philippians 3:8)



Despite our spiritual calling to seek righteousness, there are always souls inside of the system who have long sacrificed their principles, but feel as if they were forced to. So for a moment I'd like to address these people.

There are any number of areas in life where souls feel they are compelled against their will to do what is wrong. How common is it for someone to have gotten involved with a criminal network, for instance, and then feel they simply **cannot stop their crime** or their deceptions for fear of something worse. Sadly, these realities are all over the *Kahol*,



especially when it comes to abandoning biblical teachings. I have a few words for people in these situations. Now I'm not a professional ethicist, but I'd still tell you this: One, examine the situation you are in, and you might find it is not truly necessary to do as you do. Two, experience real sorrow at what you are involved in, and ask God to pardon you and to give you aid. Three, always keep your eyes open for a way to do things more honestly. Four, perhaps with trust in *Adonai* you can leave the corrupt network entirely. Sinning is a part of human reality. Sadly, we sometimes still sin, albeit much less, after we have received Mashiach into our soul. I do not know the mind of God, but I believe He will pardon those with a sincere heart who believe they are forced to do wrong. But regret is still necessary, brothers. Looking for a way out is still necessary. Please trust in God in this. For there is power in the blood of the Lamb.

Nearly four thousand years ago our forefather Avraham went up the mountain with his only son, Yitzach. He is my forefather by blood and the forefather of many by faith as well. Avraham brought his own son up the mountain to be the **willing sacrifice for sin**. Before he was to dig in the knife, *Adonai* showed him to take the life of a ram instead. Just as this act pointed toward Mashiach and all He would do, so my Jewish kin year after year and century after century offered up bulls and goats on the altar in the most holy place. None of those offerings could cleanse sin entirely, but they let us know what the score was with mankind, and were a stunning picture of the complete sacrificial giving of the Savior to come. I live in that heritage, as a Jew. I should live in it more deeply as a Christian too. So when I ask you pleading, to stand

your ground with the truth in the face of threats, when I ask you to choose poverty over preaching falsehood for money, I believe I point to the pathway of God's redeeming work throughout history, and I ask you to **be a sweet smelling sacrifice for Him**. As Leviticus instructs our ancient Jewish priests: [He] shall make it smoke upon the altar, upon the wood which is on the fire, it is a burn offering, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord.



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