

Reset – Part 7

Sacrifice: TAG – Take And Give

Philippians 3:7 NIV - But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

Nothing significant happens without sacrifice!

The Series Outline:

RESET: 7 Core Values

- 1) Vision: Somewhere on Purpose
- 2) Discipleship: Living the Life Jesus Lived
- 3) Balance: A Balanced Blessed Life
- 4) Partnership: We Serve Better Together
- 5) Community: People Matter Most
- 6) Service: Everybody is a Minister
- 7) Sacrifice: Take And Give

7 Sacrifice – The TAG Principle

**Take
And
Give**

Do you know what a sacrifice is in the Bible? It is an offering of something to God.

The TAG Principle is a great principle and it needs to be taught and celebrated because Jesus taught and celebrated it!

... You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. - Mark 10:21

Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. - Luke 12:15

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. - Luke 14:33 NIV

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail... - Luke 12:33

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them." - Luke 21:1-3

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God. - Luke 12:19-21 NIV

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. - Matthew 6:33

Over and over Jesus is relentless in His radical call to a lifestyle of sacrifice and liberality ("she has given everything she has" - Luke 21:4NLT).

One time He refers to the Old Testament minimum of giving a tenth of your income (the tithe), He endorses it, and then calls for a way of looking at life and money way more radical than the mere tithe. "You give a tenth of your [spices]...But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former" (Matthew 23:23 NIV).

And What About the Early Church?

In Jerusalem, we are told "they were selling their possessions ... and distributing the proceeds ... as any had need" (Acts 2:4).

In Macedonia: "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity... they gave... beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...(2 Corinthians 8:2, 3 NIV)

The TAG Principle is a Jesus principle.

The TAG Principle is a Kingdom principle.

You take what God has given you and you make it an offering for God... you sacrifice for the Kingdom!

Believers must learn how to TAKE what God has promised them.

Peace: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...* - John 14:27

Power: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...* - Acts 1:8

Protection: *...the Lord is faithful. He will... guard you against the evil one.* - 2 Thess. 3:3

Provision: *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches...* - Phil 4:19

The TAG Principle:

1) Take and give so for you, more can be given.

- a) See yourself as a living resource for God's Kingdom.
- b) Jesus taught the fundamental principle of sowing and reaping.

Galatians 6:7 - ... *whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV - *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

John 6:37, 38 NIV - *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. v.38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

- i) Understand the divine flow of resources.
- ii) The measure you use your resources is the measure it will be given back to you.

(1) Many people don't have faith for this promise. So they never sow any seed. If you consume all of your harvest, you will never have anything left to sow.

(2) Many people want to abuse this promise. This is NOT a get rich quick scheme!

c) Take and give or what you have will be taken.

Jesus, in the parable of the talents, told of how the Master was angry with the servant who was giving one talent and for fear of losing it. He chose not to use it. He hid it. The Master took away his one talent and gave it the one who had ten.

Matthew 25:20 NLT - *To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.*

2) Take and give so the church will not be found lacking.

- a) In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle/Temple was called the storehouse. God's people would bring their tithe (10%) there and the money would be used by the priest for His Kingdom.

Malachi 3:10 NLT – *“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”*

b) In the New Testament, the early church acted in a similar fashion.

i) The apostles receive contributions and used it for the Kingdom.

Acts 4:34, 35 - ... many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold v.35 and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

ii) They contributed a percentage of their income.

1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 NIV - Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. v.2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

This money was used for the struggling saints in Jerusalem.

c) Three Observations:

i) God delights in equal sacrifice, not equal amounts.

ii) God’s loves to meet needs through the collective contributions of His people.

In the early church funds were used to...

(1) Support God’s people outside of the local gathering.

(2) Finance the spreading of the gospel through missions.

(3) Pay the teaching elders.

(4) Help struggling widows and needy members.

1 Timothy 5:16-18 NIV - If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need. v.17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. v.18 For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

iii) God will give an increase to people who give cheerfully to the church.

2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV - Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

3) Take and give so on that day, you will be rewarded.

a) Treasure awaits you in Heaven.

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, v.20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. v.21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

b) Sacrifices will be rewarded.

Matthew 16:24-27 - Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. v.25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. v.26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? v.27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.