

Give Up to Go Up – Sacrifice

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X

Text: Hebrews 11:23-29

Any endeavor worth doing requires **sacrifice**. Any success will require the person pursuing it to give up certain things. Any parent or spouse who wants to see a family thrive and their children do well understand that this is a fact of life. There is no such thing as success without sacrifice. Those who are 10X are willing to pay the **price** to go up. Sacrifice comes in many forms. It could be time, money, prestige, promotion, the credit or even a desire.

Throughout scripture people that were used by God had to make sacrifices. Often times the **greater** the calling, the greater the sacrifice.

- **Noah** – He gave up **respectability** as he spent 100 years building a huge ship in a place that had never known rain. He gave up 100 years of **time** and energy to save humanity. He had to be willing to start over from **scratch**. He had to face an entirely new beginning. He had to give up **control** as he boarded a vessel that would sail on a flooded earth.
- **Abraham** – In order to walk in the blessing of God, he had to give up **familiarity** and comfortable surroundings. **Hebrews 11:8** In order to secure a future for God's people, he lived in **tents**. He was willing to live humbly so that his posterity could build homes and cities. To become the father of many nations he gave up his **retirement** years to raise a son. To become known as a friend of God, he had to be **willing** to sacrifice his son, whom God did spare.
- **Joseph** – Gave up his **freedom**, comfort and home. He became a slave in order for his family to eventually become free. God restored all this back and more; while he lost those years in slavery they were not wasted as preparation.
- **Nehemiah** – Gave up a **comfortable** job in the palace to help do the hard work of rebuilding a city. While there he gave up his **safety** as he faced threats and opposition.
- **Paul** – Was used by God as an Apostle to the Gentiles, gave up the secure and **prestigious** life as a Pharisee of Pharisees to become a traveling evangelist and tentmaker. He was persecuted, whipped, stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned and eventually executed for the cause of Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:23-31**

One of the greatest examples of giving up to go up is **Moses**. As a boy Moses grew up with every pleasure of the palace. He was like a son to the king, a prince. He possessed power, privilege and possessions. He had the best education, food and was learned in many disciplines. **Acts 7:22** Moses was willing to **risk** it all and lose it all to help his people, and he did.

Moses went from privilege to **poverty**. He went from being celebrated to living in obscurity and **exile**, 40 years in the wilderness. Moses had to undergo the breaking and remaking that was **required** for him to be used of God. He had to sacrifice his **pride** so that in **humility** he could lead and be used as God desired.

- * Nothing is a sacrifice unless it **costs** you something. **1 Chronicles 21:24** You can't sacrifice something you never had. Many people say they gave up things to follow the Lord, but they never actually possessed those things. David understood that. He could only sacrifice what was his.

Those who are 10X understand that God calls us to be a **living** sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 (NKJV & AMP) A living sacrifice is a **willing** sacrifice. 10X people offer themselves to the work of the Lord willingly. **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Moses willingly gave up a lot. Because he did, we can see how God molded him into a person that God could work through.

- 1) Moses was **alone** with God. If Moses had stayed in Egypt, he would have had a life filled with distractions. In the desert he had time to reflect, learn, grow and mature. By the time of the burning bush, he was **ready** to listen to God.
- 2) Moses was **honest** with God. At the burning bush there was no longer the arrogance and pride that was part of his life in Egypt. He was weak, a shepherd, no longer a prince. **Exodus 3:11** Those who are 10X realize that until we come to the place of being nothing in our own eyes, we are limited in how God can use us. **1 Peter 5:6** Moses may have come to the point of giving up all hope of doing something worthwhile with his life when God spoke to him.
- 3) Moses was **hungry** for God. It took four decades for Moses to long to be used of God. It took him forty years to work through being adopted, his pride, the killing he committed while defending someone. For many people it takes a long time or a personal tragedy to realign their priorities. It is different for each individual.
- 4) Moses was **broken** by God. There are things in us that must be torn down before God can build us up. **Psalms 51:17** God did not force His will on Moses, He waited for Moses to come to Him. **Exodus 3:4**

Brokenness involves two things

- **Removing** inappropriate pride and self-reliance. (A person can't be strongly self-reliant and hungry for God at the same time.)
- Building a healthy God-reliance.

While shifting his trust to God, Moses had to deal with his doubts and fears:

- Fears concerning **himself**. Moses had to deal with his own value and identity. When He asked God who He was, God's response was to assure him of his purpose.
- Fears concerning **God**. Moses wanted to know God personally. He asked God His name. **Exodus 3:13-14** God overwhelmed Moses with His presence. **Exodus 33:15-20**
- Fears concerning **others**. Moses was worried about how people would respond. **Exodus 4:1** Moses had experienced rejection by his adoptive family and by his own people. Many 10X people understand the pain of rejection in some form or fashion in their life and have received healing and acceptance from God. It is overcoming the fear and stigma of rejection that allows those who are 10X to do, say and implement things in the face of opposition or un-favorable people. This is a big part of the development process of those who are 10X. They are no longer bitter, fearful, angry or frustrated by people because they have the approval of God. **Proverbs 29:25**
- Fears concerning his **ability**. Moses had doubts about himself, his ability to communicate effectively and his abilities. **Exodus 4:10-14** God's response was anger at Moses's objections. Those who are 10X must get over themselves and their self-consciousness. God's answer was to give Moses a partner to work with.

To be 10X we must be willing to surrender **control**. When Moses first led the people out of Egypt, he tried to handle every problem and issue himself. It took his father-in-law, Jethro to teach him how to **delegate**. **Exodus 18:13-22**

Those who are 10X realize that you have to continue to give up in order to **go** up. Those used by God understand that there is never a time that they "**arrive**". We are always growing, learning and improving. It takes great consistency and stamina to keep going while dealing with challenges, people and opinions. Even Moses wound up disqualifying himself from entering the promised land because, towards the end, he did not obey God.

Life is filled with trade-offs. We must be prepared to sacrifice things for God's best. Moses sacrificed his **status**, his material possessions, his safety in living in obscurity. To be 10X we must hold things **lightly** and hold on tightly to the things that God values.

Philippians 3:7-9, Philippians 3:13-14

Those who are 10X appreciate God's **timing**. **Ecclesiastes 3:1** Moses learned that God is rarely in a hurry. As adults we come to realize that life is full of seasons, milestones and next steps. Life is a journey that takes time to unfold.

Those who sacrifice understand the value putting others first. Those in the Bible often were called to put their self-interests on the back burner. Our reluctance to sacrifice is cultivated by our tendency to focus on ourselves.

~ Albert Einstein – “A person starts to live when he can live outside himself.”

Moses, Joseph, Daniel lived a life that benefitted other people.

While those who are 10X hold loosely to things they are grateful for every blessing that God has given them. Our gifts, talents, abilities material possessions and God’s favor are all from Him. **James 1:17** One of the greatest sacrifices of those who are 10X is the sacrifice of praise.
Hebrews 13:15

Sacrifice is never pain free - that is why it is important to maintain an eternal perspective - to see things from God’s way and God’s point of view. Temporary sacrifice brings eternal reward.