



3. Loving Sacrifices

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels.”

(Heb 13:2)

One of the things that this pandemic revealed is God’s loving image through so many individuals and groups as they stepped out sacrificially and practically showed love to strangers. I am sure you know some of them and most likely have been one of them. Let me introduce to some unsung heroes who showed love to migrant labourers who were total strangers to them.

Meet my schoolmate Sunil Chandalia of Jaipur. Sunil rented a mini truck, which his two drivers used to give rides to exhausted migrant labourers and their families who were walking on the Jaipur highways. Then there’s Ravishankar my classmate from MCC, who was involved in providing dry rations at a slum resettlement in North Chennai. My former Andhra Bank colleague and friend Sidharth Shetty went to the poorer quarters of Bangalore distributing face masks to the vulnerable. And finally, Ruben Kale my spiritual son and the youth group he mentors in St Mary’s Church, Pune who helped lodge stranded labourers and their families in a government school, then booked their train tickets and sent them home. All of them reflected the image of God they are made in. They have been generous with their time and treasure as many others and probably you too.

But, here’s a thought that may not apply to all of us but definitely to most of us. Why does it take a 9/11 or a COVID 19 or some kind of disaster for the majority of us to reveal such sacrificial love? Why does it lie inactive when things are normal? Why are we so inconsistent in our loving and caring of others?

Jesus once said, “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Very true.

But, equally, don’t you think it would be lovely to display our love as the apostle Paul so beautifully said, “as living sacrifices.” That could be our daily act of worship and obedience to the great command of loving God and our neighbor.

How do we do this? There are many ways to do that, but let me offer a way that I do it and I am sure each of you can customize for yourself.

I got this idea when I was reflecting on Jesus’ last command to His disciples before He ascended to heaven. He said, “Go *MAKE* disciples.” Have you ever wondered about this? Why did Jesus say that? Jesus could have easily said “Go *Be* disciples” but He did not.

I believe because you can’t make disciples unless you ‘be’ one. Jesus was moving us to the next level. In addition, He was giving us a simple way to obey the great command. By “making” we first loved God by “being” a disciple and then loved our neighbours by “making” them disciples.

The Lord Jesus by this command is actually inviting us as His disciples to partner with Him in making this world better in every sense of the word, by thinking more about others than ourselves.

So, you may say, “Okay, but can you make this practical, as so many did it during the pandemic? Yes, I can. Once I got this insight, I have intentionally tried to live out “making” rather than just ‘being.’”

Let me give some personal examples to show how I have applied this insight, both for the Great Commission and importantly even beyond it.

I currently am in leadership positions at work, church and in volunteer organizations. I not only take my leadership role seriously, but intentionally groom others to be able to easily replace me. In other words, I am both a leader and a leader maker at the same time.

Another example is my role as a teacher at my College and in different Christian settings. I consciously look for opportunities to mentor colleagues in both settings, especially new teachers. So, I am not just **being** a teacher but an intentional and active teacher “**maker.**”

Each one of us are involved in something of valuable and have something of value to offer to others. It is about leaving a legacy. I use a 4-word mantra that is worth memorizing. “Success means having successors.” Let me repeat it “Success means having successors.” Of course, our greatest success and joy as “makers” will be to see those we passed onto what we had, have grown and achieve things much more than us.

Here’s a suggestion. Fill the blank in the sentence of something you are good at and can pass on to others to complete the sentence. Then work on your answer to the question.

“How can I be more than just a _____ but become a _____ maker?”

Modify it by replacing the word disciple Complete the sentence with any valuable role you are playing well either at home or work or in the community, for example, replace disciple with the word – Singer, Dentist, Head of Department, Parent, Pastor, etc. Then find ways to love the people you influence by mentoring and helping them succeed and get better.

This commitment will involve consistent sacrifices of time, money and energy. But, let’s find encouragement in Paul’s words in Acts 20:35 that, *‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*

Let us take that small first step and become intentional “makers.” Let’s not be discouraged by the small beginnings we make. Remember that within a tiny apple seed lies the potential of an entire apple orchard. As we step out, even if we are just impacting a tiny part of the globe we inhabit, it is worth it.

May God bless us as we become intentional makers.

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