**Making Sacrifices**

**Reading Mark 12:41-44**

To be God-like is to make sacrifices. ***John 3:16-17*** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***Romans 5:6-8*** 6For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.  7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.  8But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Why should we be any different? ***Romans 12:1-13*** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.  2And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith…. 6Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, ***let us use them****:* if prophecy, *let us* *prophesy* in proportion to our faith;  7or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;  8he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness…10*Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;  11not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;  12rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

What happens when things don’t go our way? {Cry & Pout} ***Philippians 2:14-17*** Do all things without complaining and disputing,  15that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,  16holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored [sacrificed]in vain. 17Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Preaching the gospel takes sacrifice. ***Philippians 4:14-19*** Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.  15Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.  16For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.  17Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.  18Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.  19And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Prayer as a sacrifice?  ***Hosea 14:2***  Take words with you, And return to the Lord. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity; Receive *us* graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

***Hebrews 13:15-17*** Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.  16But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices **God is well pleased**. 17Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.