TOTAL SACRIFICE TO SERVING

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

TOTAL SACRIFICE TO SERVING

Key Text: Mark 3:1-21

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Most righteous King of the whole heaven and earth, we adore You and honor You, we pray Lord that You'd open our understanding to Your word and help us to be doers of Your word in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Study

Mark 3:1-21 KJV And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. [2] And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. [3] And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. [4] And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. [5] And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. [6] And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him. [7] But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, [8] And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him. [9] And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. [10] For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues. [11] And

unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. [12] And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known. [13] And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. [14] And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, [15] And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: [16] And Simon he surnamed Peter; [17] And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: [18] And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, [19] And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house. [20] And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. [21] And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

In this chapter and the previous ones The Lord Jesus Christ had been going about doing good, He was preaching and healing. He came into disagreement with the teachers of the law over the Sabbath, they insinuating that there is no need to do good on the Sabbath and upheld the Sabbath above the good that is to be done to humanity. They went beyond the law of God and added to it saying that what Jesus' disciples were doing on the Sabbath is not lawful, whereas they are not breaking the Sabbath. Luke 6:1 KJV And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands. Deuteronomy 23:25 KJV When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn.

Jesus Christ made them to know that the Sabbath was created for man and not man for the Sabbath. In other words, the Sabbath was created for man to rest and not the Sabbath to rest for man. Therefore anything that brings about rest could be done on Sabbath days. He went further to tell them that He is The Lord, the head over the Sabbath. With this, He recognised the Sabbath as a day of rest in which good things must be done, these He did and taught. Because of the hardness of their hearts they did not understand. Mark 3:5 KJV And when he had

looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. Healing the man whose hands had withered should have brought joy to them that at least he is now enjoying good health, but instead of this, they preferred that the man remains in his critical situation so that the Sabbath will not be broken. In this their eyes were closed to the miracle He performed.

At times when men are lost in religion they will not have an opened eyes to see the wondrous works of God. The Lord did many mighty works which made the people flock around Him to the point that He had to tell His disciples to get Him a small boat where He could sit so that the multitude would not crush Him because every one of them wanted to touch Him so that they could be healed. Mark 3:9 KJV And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. While He was doing all these He had not eaten, even His disciples too. It got to a point when He had to enter a house to eat with His disciples. Mark 3:20 KJV And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. As they entered the house they had not even started eating when the multitude gathered again and they could no longer eat than to attend to them. The work of the kingdom took a lot from Christ and His disciples could not eat because they needed to attend to other people's needs. People were attracted to The Lord Jesus Christ because of the mighty works He had been doing. He Himself at some point had to forfeit his own meal to attend to people, their problems became His, their pains, suffering and afflictions became His.

The hunger he felt at that time was swallowed up with compassion for the Lost. His disciples too had to follow the trend even though they just got admitted into Christ's school of discipleship, the first thing they had to learn indirectly is to give themselves to service for others not placing themselves first but last. They worked laboriously to the point that they did not rest but because they were still operating in the body which is still subject to the test of nature, The Lord told the disciples to rest from their journey when they went to preach the gospel, for they had not found enough time to eat. Mark 6:31-32 KJV And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were

many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. [32] And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. The time they had to themselves was so little as they are always encompassed by the crowd. Mark 6:33 KJV And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. We can see here that the people had gone ahead of them to wait for them at where they were going to. Thus, we see that they had no private life as people were always around them. As ministers of the gospel we must know that our privacy would always be interfered with and we must not get offended by this, it is part of the sacrifice we have to pay for service because of this constant crowd around The Lord Jesus Christ, we will see that most times when He prayed He did it in the midnight when everyone would have slept because He knows that if He does not do it in the midnight the multitude will not allow Him do it in the daytime and He must be in constant Communion with His Father.

Mark 1:35 KJV And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. As children of God we should watch ourselves closely to see what is hindering our fellowship with The Father so that we can fix our meeting with Him appropriately so nothing would cut our fellowship with Him. There are times you have to withdraw yourself into a secret place to pray. Luke 5:16 KJV And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. Luke 9:29 KJV And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. Do not let the work of ministry take the place of your communion with God away, always depart to a solitary place to pray, and study God's Word, that is where your strength lies. It is in the midst of all these work The Lord was doing that His family came and took Him away saying that He is mad because they did not believe in Him. He had become a stranger to His own brethren and an alien to His mother's children. Psalm 69:8 KJV I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. All whom knew Him and knew where He came from saw Him as a mere Carpenter's son. Mark 6:3 KJV Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

They were imagining how and what makes carpentry work correlates with what He was doing, although they saw signs and wonders yet they did not believe. His own people went out to lay hold on Him, when they heard that He could not even have time to eat and since they did not initially believe in Him they said that He had gone mad; not knowing that in the actual sense the madness was on their own side. Many others said the same thing. John 10:20 KJV And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Christians who take the gospel seriously are always called mad, if they could call our Master such, how much more His servants? That is why Paul was also said to have been mad. Acts 26:24 KJV And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. The appellation the world has given to Christians is the word "mad" because they do not follow the ways of the flesh but of The Spirit. John 3:8 KJV The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

A spiritual man cannot be predicted and that is also the kind of nature in a mad man, as no one can predict what action he will display next. The ways of the Spiritual man are unpredictable because they are dictated by The Holy Spirit, that is why Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:13 KJV For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. By this Paul is saying that even if they are out of their minds, it is to God. This also applies to we Christians of today, we must serve Christ to the point that the world would not be able to differentiate us from Christ, they will see that we do not live a life controlled by our own personal will, but a life controlled by an external Force which is The Holy Ghost. What duty can make a man give more attention to the well-being of others than himself? When you begin to give more time to others than yourself people would find it hard to comprehend it because it is the opposite of their own selfish nature which is centred on self. A man who is concerned more about himself cannot carry his cross and follow Christ. Self will not allow him. He will always think about his own personal gain and not that of others. God wants us to place others as priorities before ourselves, this He and His disciples did. This is what the world cannot do and it is what would bring us out as different from them.

May God give us all the grace to put total sacrifice in our service to Him in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

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