

## SEARCH and PONDER

**Read the following scripture:** Matt. 19:29

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

**Now, answer this question:** What is the promise that is made in this scripture?

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**Now, answer this question:** What is the promise given to those who sacrifice?

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**Read this quote:** "Sacrifice is the crowning test of the gospel. It means giving to the Lord whatever he requires of our time, our earthly possessions, and our energies to further his work" (Gospel Principles, chapter 26).

**Now, answer this question:** Why is sacrifice a test?

## SEARCH and PONDER

**Read this:** The Lord's people have always sacrificed greatly and in many ways because of their faith and works. Some have suffered hardships and ridicule for their beliefs. Some new converts to the Church have been rejected by their families because they joined the Church. Many have lost their jobs; some have lost their lives.

**Now, answer this question:** What example of someone sacrificing in order to help build up the kingdom can you retell to us?

## SEARCH and PONDER

**Read the following scripture:** Matt: 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Now, answer this question:** How does this scripture relate to the principle of sacrifice?

## SEARCH and PONDER

**Read the following scripture:** Matt: 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Now, answer this question:** Who is Heavenly Father speaking to in this scripture?

**Read the following quote and share your**

**feelings on it:** "Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things. It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life. ..."It is in vain for persons to fancy to themselves that they are heirs with those, or can be heirs with them, who have offered their all in sacrifice, and by this means obtain faith in God and favor with him so as to obtain eternal life, unless they, in like manner, offer unto him the same sacrifice, and through that offering obtain the knowledge that they are accepted of him."

---President Joseph Smith

**Read the following quote and share your feelings:**

"We have covenanted in the waters of baptism to love and serve [the Lord], to keep his commandments, and to put first in our lives the things of his kingdom. In return he has promised us eternal life in his Father's kingdom. The law of sacrifice is that we are willing to sacrifice all that we have for the truth's sake—our character and reputation; our honor and applause; our good name among men; our houses, lands, and families: all things, even our very lives if need be. ...We are not always called upon to live the whole law of consecration and give all of our time, talents, and means to the building up of the Lord's earthly kingdom. Few of us are called upon to sacrifice much of what we possess, and at the moment there is only an occasional martyr in the cause of revealed religion. But ... we must be able to live these laws to the full if we are called upon to do so"

----Bruce R. McConkie

**Read the following story and share why you think President Kimball was so strong in having the young missionary sacrifice:**

Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve told the following story about service and sacrifice: "Jose Garcia [was] from Old Mexico. Born in poverty but nurtured in faith, Jose prepared for a mission call. I was present the day his [mission] recommendation was received. There appeared the statement: 'Brother Garcia will serve at great sacrifice to his family, for he is the means of much of the family support. He has but one possession—a treasured stamp collection—which he is willing to sell, if necessary, to help finance his mission.' "President Kimball listened attentively as this statement was read to him, and then he responded: 'Have him sell his stamp collection. Such sacrifice will be to him a blessing' " (in Conference Report, Oct. 1978, p. 83; or Ensign, Nov. 1978, p. 56).

**Read this story and share why it is important to keep one's testimony strong to be able to sacrifice for others:**

Sister JoAnn Ottley, wife of Jerold D. Ottley, told the story: "The Lord gave my husband and me special talents for music. We have spent our entire lifetimes studying and developing these gifts. When we were in Europe studying, we realized that we had an especially important and difficult decision to make. Both of us knew that if we remained in Europe, we would have many opportunities for success. We wanted above all; however, to do what the Lord wanted us to do. We desired to be used by the Lord in the building of his kingdom here on the earth. We repeatedly fasted and prayed for the direction of the Spirit and to know the will of the Lord. Our answer came during a sacrament meeting at the close of a fasting period. We had both received the same instructions by the Spirit—that our work was at home. T the Lord made it possible for us to return to Salt Lake City. I became a member of the Tabernacle Choir, and my husband joined the Music Department at the University of Utah. A short time later, my husband was called by the 1<sup>st</sup>. Presidency of the Church as the conductor of the Tabernacle Choir. The Lord had indeed been preparing us for special service."

**Read this story. How did this woman help to build the kingdom?**

Sister Villafranca lived in San Fernando, Mexico, far from a ward or branch. But she found a way to help build the kingdom in her area. She asked a group of fifty people—thirty of them investigators—to come to her small home to hear the missionaries teach the gospel.

The missionary who taught them told what happened: "As I began the discussion, the room was expectantly quiet. Every student listened with sincere interest. When I asked questions of the class, it seemed as if they had memorized the answers beforehand, and I found myself becoming more and more excited as it became apparent that I had not one golden contact, but a whole room full of them. When it came time to ask if, after they had studied, prayed, and listened to the rest of the discussions, they would be baptized, I was greeted with a chorus of 'Sí.' ... "Now, six years later, there is a branch with almost 200 members in San Fernando. It is there because of the missionary efforts of one stalwart sister who was not afraid to tell others about the gospel, and to do it with the faith that precedes any miracle" (Glenn V. Bird, "Miracle at San Fernando," *New Era*, Jan. 1977, pp. 28–29).

True or False

It is only by building the kingdom of God through our personal dedication and sacrifice that we can become like our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

True or False

As your testimony increases you are able to make greater sacrifices for the church.

True or False

Not all people are tried and tested to see if they are willing to give up personal desires and pleasures and put the things of God first in their lives.

True or False

Our individual habits affect our ability to do the Lord's work and build the kingdom.

TRUE or FALSE

Jesus set the perfect example of sacrifice when he willingly gave his life so that we could be saved from physical death by the resurrection and from our sins by repentance. Others have also sacrificed their lives so that we could have the gospel.

TRUE or FALSE

The talents you have been given are to help you to further your own position in the world, not for building His kingdom here on the earth.

## Multiple Choice

You may have to sacrifice this in order to have a temple marriage:

- a) Scripture study
- b) Going to church each Sunday
- c) Dating a young man who is a worthy Priesthood holder
- d) worldly fashions and habits

## Multiple Choice

Sacrifice means:

- a) Making an offering to God
- b) Giving up something valuable to oneself
- c) Giving of one's time, talents, and possessions without wanting anything in return

## Multiple Choice

What is something you *probably* won't be asked to sacrifice?

- a) giving our time to Church callings
- b) overcoming fear so that we can share the gospel
- c) paying tithing to the Lord
- d) serving our neighbors
- e) giving up the praise of our friends when we do not go along with worldly fashions and habits
- f) Your physical life

## Multiple Choice

A great way to help build the kingdom is by

- a) Telling the Bishopric which callings you would be great at—and willing to accept
- b) Accept any calling the Bishopric asks you to accept—knowing that they are inspired.
- c) Accept the callings offered to you, but question the “inspiration” of the Bishopric
- d) Only accept the callings that you know you will be good at.

## Multiple Choice

Something *not* worth sacrificing for is

- a) Earning a college degree
- b) Temple marriage
- c) Getting a date with the cutest **(ANY)** guy in school
- d) Graduating from Seminary

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