

DO YOU REFLECT CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE

Blog #60 / Jeremy Nix / 9-15-26

A question sometimes comes up in our lives about our merciful Savior's sacrifice. Do you know what it is? It goes something like this: Do you live your life *reflecting and being mindful* of the sacrifice that Jesus made for you?

For a Christian, this question matters. We should, without a doubt, live our lives appreciating the cost that Jesus paid for our sins. As Christians, we should live to honor Jesus with our every word, thought, and action. However, it goes deeper than that... or at least it should.

Clearly, Jesus' blood was shed for all mankind. So, it's natural to ask, "Do you live a life that truly reflects the honor of Jesus?" "Well, we may consider, in some small way, Yes, I do." However, if you shift your focus away from yourself and zoom outward, widening your perspective... maybe you will see that honoring Jesus isn't only about you.

We live in a country with many blessings. However, at times, we can mold our thoughts into this *selfish mentality*, thinking "it's all about me". We are a society driven by this "I, me, mine" mindset: I want it now, my success, selfishly motivated, and self-absorbed. It's this ideology of "*whatever is in the best interest of me!*" That's all that matters!

For a moment, let's consider this "thinking" as a ride. So, buckle up and keep your hands and feet inside the "car" at all times. Okay, what if you actually live your life righteously before God? You've kept the law. You pray and fast. You go to church, and tithe on your gains. Do you think you're honoring Jesus? Of course, but it goes beyond those things. *Your life isn't just about you.* Your life isn't only about *selfish gain or righteousness*; it's about self-awareness of your demeanor—your attitude! Jesus said to the Pharisees, "...hypocrites! for you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought you to have done, and not leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23).

It's easy to get caught up in our own pursuits and ambitions, but as genuine Christians, we must remember that our lives are not just about ourselves. Notice: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own

things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:3-5).

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. As followers of Jesus Christ, we should broaden our focus. As children, we are taught to better ourselves. And clearly there is nothing wrong with setting goals or having personal objectives because that should be how we’re wired. But serving and honoring Jesus goes beyond self. We should honor Jesus by being *living examples* of the gospel. Actually *exemplifying the “weightier matters”* of the law!

As a parent, I motivate and encourage my children to do well. I desire them to do good in school. However, my greatest desire for my children is that they grow up to be good, kind people who *reflect God* in their personalities. Do I want them to have certain elements of success in this life? Absolutely; but I hope that success is driven by a mentality of serving others.

When our merciful Savior and King Jesus died on the cross, He paid the ultimate cost. He paid the ultimate price for our sins. He *willingly suffered* and died so that mankind could be forgiven of our sins. A love so immensely strong that, through His merciful sacrifice, we can obtain eternal life. His death is the greatest act of love and selflessness that man has ever known and will ever experience. He is worthy of our praise! We are called to emulate His life in ours. Do you really understand what that means? It’s acknowledging the weight and significance of His sacrifice and living in a way that honors and praises Him by serving others. Remember, *it’s not just about you*. Notice: “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him *deny himself*, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24).

Whoever wants to serve Jesus must *deny themselves*, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. Doing your daily readings, daily prayers, and praises are all wonderful things; but following Jesus requires letting go of self. Letting go of your own plans and agendas occasionally, and instead aligning yourself with God's plan and His will.

Life can be busy at times. We live in a world full of demands for our time and attention. Many people have to go to work, school, or attend appointments. We can be so busy that, sadly, we often lose sight of truly serving others.

I know many of you reading this have heard it said: "Offer yourself as a living sacrifice. Notice: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

This means we are to live lives pleasing to Jesus and align our daily choices with His desires. When we serve our Lord, we need to understand that everything we have and everything that makes us who we are belongs to Christ. With this awareness, we begin to understand that our lives are not our own; rather, they belong to the Lord. *One of the greatest responsibilities we have to our Lord is serving others.* That is the example that Christ set. When we serve others, we honor God and Jesus. We serve God by serving others just like our King Jesus. Jesus showed us the perfect example of how to serve others.

As the Fall Holy Days approach, let's focus on serving others and on serving Christ. God's Holy Days are perfect, and they show us a picture of God's awesome plan for mankind. In the center of that perfect plan is our King of kings.

The Passover is past, but we counted the cost as we drank of the wine and ate unleavened bread. Now, as we observe the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, let's concentrate on serving others while counting the cost.

Jesus, the King of kings, is worthy of all praise because He served. It's because of Jesus' sacrifice and His perfect love that we can observe these Holy Days. We need to emulate His service and love to others. Being willing to sacrifice and go beyond the call of duty. Remember, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this... Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction... keep yourself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27).

Jesus is the reason why the trumpets will sound. Jesus is the reason the dead in Christ shall rise. Jesus is the reason Satan will be bound and the world will be freed from darkness. Jesus is the reason for the truth that will be declared in those days because He is the truth and the way. Our Almighty God and Jesus, our King, will reign for all eternity! *So, count the cost daily*, for the day of the Lord is upon us!