

Kingdom Life: Love Makes Sacrifices by Pastor Kurt Hoover

Kingdom Litany based on Psalm 145

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

All: and all your saints shall bless you!

Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

All: and tell of your power,

Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,

All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Leader: We worship you, Lord, In the name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 10:10-13 But the Lord is the true God;

he is the living God and the everlasting King.

At his wrath the earth quakes,

and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

¹¹ Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”

¹² It is he who made the earth by his power,
who established the world by his wisdom,
and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

¹³ When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,
and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.

He makes lightning for the rain,
and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

Matthew 16:21-28 ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole **world** and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Inspired by Don McLean I once drove my pickup truck through the night just so I could show up at a girl’s house with a pink carnation.

If I am honest I, did it out of love. And it was a foolish, rash decision. I ended up sleeping on the couch in her basement. When her parents went to work in the morning it was the first time, they met me... the kids asleep on their couch.

What are some crazy things you have done because of love?

Whose lives have been shaped because of the way Love has moved you?

The interesting thing about love is that you have very little control over it, how it moves you, and for whom your heart will surrender... lifelong friends, the birth of a child, family reunions ... and for many of us the love of our lives – tell death do us part.

Love is a powerful influence. It gives us words we didn’t know we had in moments we can’t prepare for. Love makes you bold. Love produces miracles, changes lives... And love is so powerful that it enables us to lay down our lives for another.

Love makes sacrifices.

This is Jesus point as He rebukes Peter and clearly lays out this contrast between what is of God and what is of man, the difference between the needs of your soul and the needs of the world... losing life in order to gain it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?.. – Matthew 16:26

Love enables us to take up our cross and follow Him. Love is what creates that same sacrificial spirit in us.

Love makes sacrifices.

And this is a huge shift for the disciples. As Matthew tells the story of miracles and authority that are making Jesus a household name... He pauses in chapter 16 to tell us how shocking it was for Jesus to tell the disciples that the purpose of the Messiah, the greatest work of God in the world... and for your personal life... The purpose of the Messiah would not be miracles or political power. The purpose of the Messiah would be to suffer and die... so that we may have new life.

Faith, Hope and Love... and the greatest of these is Christ's love for you. Love makes sacrifices.

What sacrifices, has your love for another enabled you to make?

The love of spouse to build a home and a dream out of conflicting desires and callings. Only love can make those sacrifices.

What family traditions and allegiances did you have to sacrifice in order to blend and create your new home? What did it cost you?

Love makes sacrifices.

Do you remember what you were willing to do to have a sleep over as a kid? Clean your room, do your homework, be nice to your little sister ... real sacrifices. :)

**Do you remember the first time you gave up a toy or treasured possession out of your love or compassion for a friend?
Love makes sacrifices.**

If someone told you beforehand how much of your time and energy and will it would take to raise a child would you have done it. Ask any parent, it is worth the cost, but none of us knew the sacrifices that would be required of us.

If someone told you the arguments, you would have... the relentless exploration of children... How many times you would have to say, ‘no.’

The rebellion and bitterness of a teenager. In doing what is best for your child you will suffer their wrath. If someone told you that you would have to watch this child suffer as they become their own would you rationally choose to be a parent?

The heart of parenting isn’t centered on what you can make happen for your child, but on what you will be willing to suffer from that child and for that child.

Love makes sacrifices.

Which means what makes you who you are today has very little to do with anything you have strived to accomplish. You are the product of the sacrifice's others have made for you.

What sacrifices have parents and coaches, friends and siblings made to make you who you are today?

Who lost sleep because of you? How many times did you become the center of your families' prayers? Who willingly and sometimes regretfully gave up their dreams, their time and their energy to walk with you through hard times?

Who were those timely voices and influences that said just right thing at the right time?

Who was it that taught you to pray? Who is it that read the scriptures with you? Who did you go to church with? And which parent or grandparent in your life made sure you got a chance at Sunday school, First communion, confirmation, youth group and trips... and who were those faithful chaperones and leaders and teachers who made that instruction in the Christian faith happen for you?

That you might know and be shaped by the Love of Christ for you shown in Christ Jesus.

You are the product of sacrifices that only love can make happen.

Love makes sacrifices.

God's love makes it possible for us to do the most meaningful, yet hardest things in life, making sacrifices for those we love.

The hardest thing you will do I life is not helping a spouse or a friend or a child succeed. The hardest thing you will do in life is suffer alongside another.

The heart of parenting isn't centered on what you can make happen for your child, but on what you will be willing to suffer from that child and for that child.

Which is precisely what Christ has done for you. His love for you can create a miracle from time to time. And there are everyday miracles that the Father's love provides. However, Jesus Christ is most present for you when He suffers your rebellion and bear the punishment for your mistakes. His sacrificial love is the power that enables you to do the same.

God calls us to make sacrifices for others. This is true. God bids you give thanks for those who have made sacrifices for you. This is also true. However, the heart of who you are resides in what God has done for you. Jesus suffered and died that we might experience new life.

You are who you are because of what Christ has done. A very real experience called love, which Christ makes possible. And because of Christ's Love you have given up the world for the sake of your soul and the soul of those you love. Because of Christ's love you bear His cross. You have made very real sacrifices for others. Because of Jesus love your mind is set on things of God and not things of man.