# The Desire For Less

**Tony Mauck** · Mark 8:27–38

## INTRODUCTION

- What's the bare minimum that I can do? What is the least that I can do to get by? What is the least that I can do to please God and go to heaven?
- If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross.
- For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it.

## 1 Sacrifice Is Good for Me

**Mark 10**

- Instead of saying, I want to do less, instead, we need to think this sacrifice is good for me.
- Those five things all represent one thing, and that is that he loved the world and his possessions more than he loved God.
- There are some times when I need to do things that my mind is telling me I don't want to do.
- When I have to say no to myself and say yes to something higher and better, that's good for me.

## 2 Even When I Sacrifice, I've Still Merited Nothing

**Luke 17:10; 1 Corinthians 1:30**

- Even when I do sacrifice, and perhaps even sacrifice greatly, I've still merited nothing.
- Let us say that when we have done all things that we have been commanded to do, we are still unworthy.
- We could never merit or earn our salvation. God had to do something for us we could not do for ourselves.
- If you excel and sacrifice more than anybody else, you have merited nothing. We are still completely dependent upon God's mercy.

## 3 God Deserves My Best, Not My Leftovers

**Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4**

- The text emphasizes what? It was of his first and fat portions.
- The reason why God had regard for Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's is because Abel's attitude was God deserves my best. Not my leftovers.
- If that's not our attitude, in what sense could we be carrying our cross for Jesus?
- God deserves my best, my first and my best. He deserves lavish generosity. Not a minimalist approach.

## 4 Passion for God

- If you truly understand grace and love and what Jesus has done for us. The result is a passion for Him, not a I want to do less minimalist kind of approach.
- It rivets our attention to unseen realities. It solidifies the foundation of successful and godly living.
- The word of God is a powerful instrument of salvation and change. We don't need less exposure. We need more.
- As a deer pants for the water brooks or for flowing streams, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you need to make the choice that these brethren did? They first gave themselves to the Lord and unto us by the will of God.

MY NOTES