

The Easiest Sacrifices

- When we must lose something ... make it a choice
- *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Heb 11:24-26*
- For Moses it made perfect sense. Greater sacrifice would have been to stay and lose.

Initial Choice



Difficult Choices

- *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Matt 10:37-39*
- Family – Friends – Hobbies – Job – Money

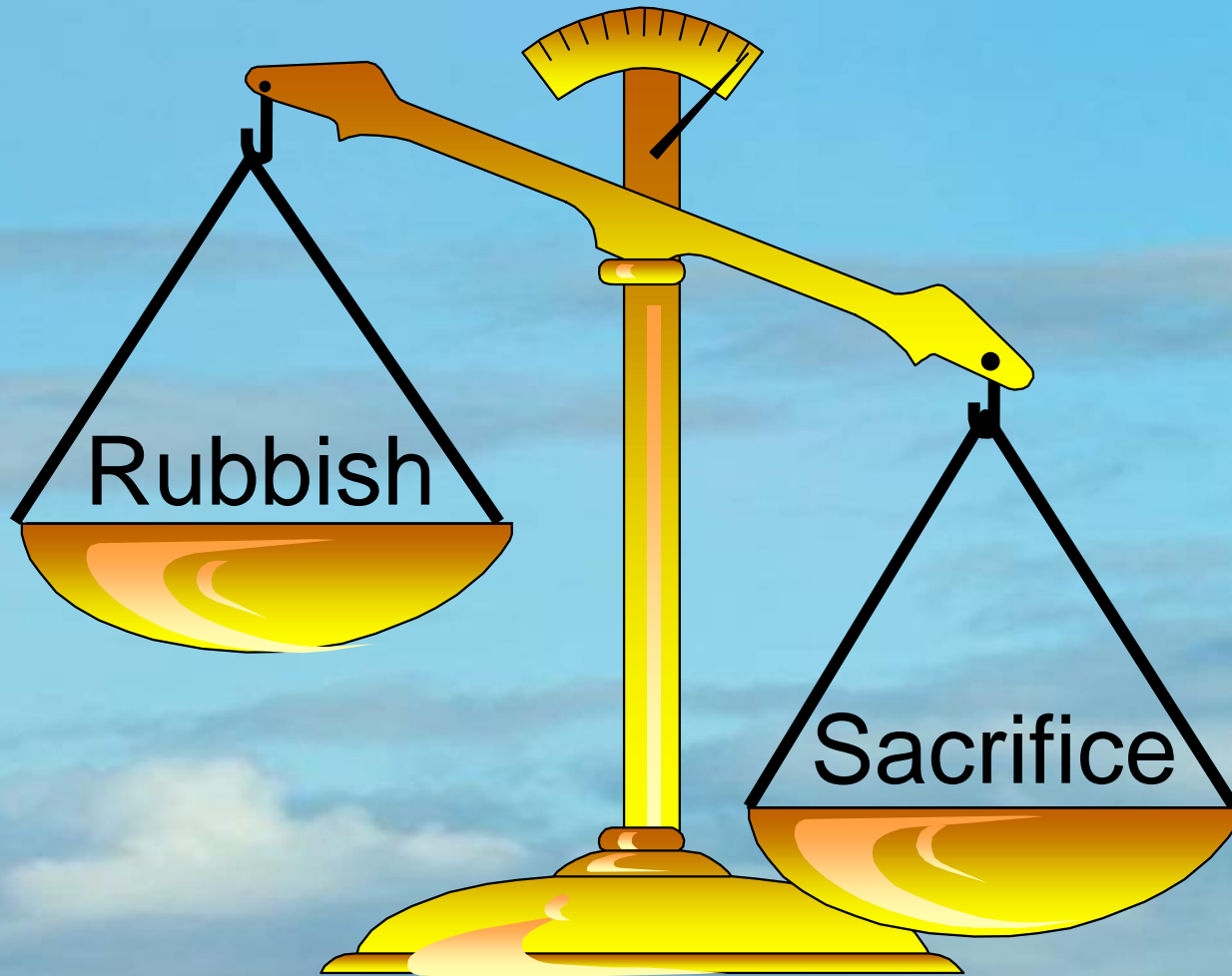
Equally Weighing – Gain / Loss



Changing Sacrifices into Gains

- *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ... 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:7-11*
- When we change our perspective, the gain becomes a weight and turns to rubbish and the loss becomes the treasure.

The Loss becomes the Gain



Only Way to Never Regret

- *These all died in faith, **not having received** the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims on the earth**. 14 For they that say such things make it manifest that they are seeking after a country of their own. 15 And if indeed they had **been mindful** of that (country) from **which they went out**, they would have had **opportunity to return**. 16 But now they desire a better (country), that is, a heavenly: wherefore **God is not ashamed of them**, to be called their God; for he hath **prepared for them a city**. Heb 11:13-16*

A Living Hope

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 1 Peter 1:3-5*
- Our living hope that crushes all others?

They Died in Faith but Promises Didn't

- *Died without receiving the promises,*
- *Having seen and welcomed from a distance*
- *Confessed they were strangers / exiles on earth*
- *Made it clear they seek a country of their own*
- *If thinking of country went out, they would have had opportunity to return.*
- *Desire a better country, that is a heavenly one.*
- *God not ashamed to be called their God;*
- *He has prepared a city for them.*
- **We must place ourselves in their midst. It is our turn and we don't want to miss this.**

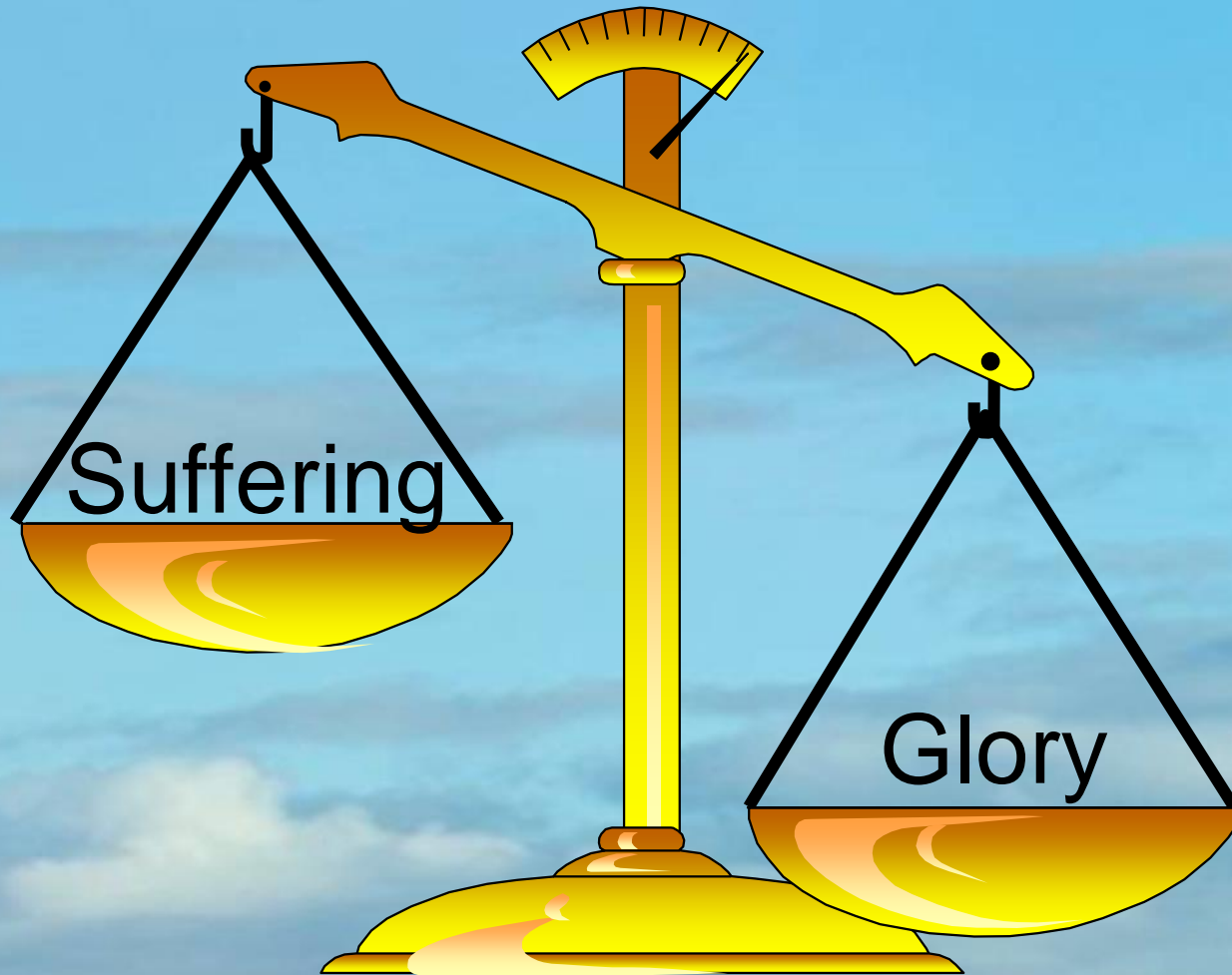
It Always Comes Down to Reasons

- *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Mt. 13:44-46*
- Was it a sacrifice? Was it an opportunity?

Change in Perspective & Outlook

- *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
Rom 8:18-19*
- It is not a real sacrifice if there is a reward.
- It is only a short term set back for a long term goal.

Suffering for Glory



Every Sacrifice is Rewarded

- *So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time — houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions — and in the age to come, eternal life. Mk. 10:29-31*

All Athletes Understand This

- *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:24-27*
- A Coach teaching sacrifice is respected.
- What about a Preacher?

Regret is a Weight

- *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Heb 12:1-2*

The Day of the Reward

- *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:6-8*
- We have to keep reminding ourselves. If we lose this perspective it becomes very difficult.