

Sacrifice – Nov. 9, 2022

There's difference between giving & sacrifice. Easy to give out of abundance.

Sacrifice means we are losing something of value. Giving up ... costs us.

Sacrifice: to suffer loss of something for an ideal/belief, to give up, renounce.

Veteran's Day is Fri. Honor the sacrifice of our **military** to serve.

Chess: to deliberately all the opponent to win a pawn/piece for tactical advantage.

Baseball: hitting or bunting a ball with the batter's willingness to be out, but allows another base runner or runners to advance.

Religion/Old Testament - act of slaughtering an animal as an offering to God.

Silkworm. Silk is a luxurious commodity. Worn by royalty. It is highly valuable b/c it is costly to obtain and make. **Silk requires sacrifice.**

Sericulture - the process of gathering silkworms and harvesting silk.

Female **silkmoths** lay approx **300-500** eggs; eggs hatch to form silkworms, a type of caterpillar.

1. Silkworms feed continually on mulberry leaves. It takes around **6 weeks** to grow to full size, about 3 inches. They'll stop eating and begin to spin a cocoon.
2. Attached to a tree, the silkworm will begin spinning its silk cocoon by rotating its body in a figure-8 movement about **300,000 times** – process takes **3-8 days**. - silkworm produces a single strand of silk, which measures about 100 metres (just over ½ mile), held together by a type of natural gum, called **sericin**.
3. After spinning their cocoon, the silkworm encloses itself inside it. If left untouched, silkworm will emerge in about **3 weeks** as a moth.
4. **To make silk**, cocoons are placed in boiling water which softens and dissolves the **sericin** (gum) holding cocoon together. No damage to continuity of thread.
5. Silk Thread is carefully **reeled** from cocoons in individual long threads, wound onto a reel. It's **washed and cleaned** with soap and boiling water.
6. Silk threads will be **dried** and then **dyeing process** begins... natural resources - such as fruit or indigo plant leaves - threads soaked in bundles, in a pot of hot indigo leaves and water. Process occurs multiple times over a span of days to ensure proper color tone and quality.
7. **Spinning** process unwinds the dyed silk so they lay flat ready for weaving.
8. **Weaving** is the process of interlacing two sets of threads so that they lock around each other and create a strong, uniform piece of fabric.

Silk is most expensive fabric in the world. \$100 a yard.

We wear it, forgetting the **sacrifice**.

Manufacturing 1 lb of silk requires the death of **2,495** silkworms.

It takes **110** cocoons to make a silk tie.
Silkworms valuable. Death penalty in China long ago. All this to create silk!
Silkworms make a **sacrifice**... over & over.

Jesus was a 1-time sacrifice. We are saved 1-time, for all time.

“But now [Jesus] has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” - **Heb. 9:26**

Why? For love. To be with us. **God wants the best for us.**

He takes us as He finds us – “naked and bare” – & loves us... and blesses us.

“I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and **covered you with silk.** 11 And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen **and silk** and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.”- **Ezek. 16:10-13**

Ezekiel 16 is a chapter about the history of Jerusalem. But it shows us, even when we have not been faithful to God, He is still faithful to us.

- There are consequences for sin, for denying God, abandoning Him... but His **love never stops.**

- God takes us as we are & forgives us of all we have done. **Ezek. 16:63**

- And when we **return** to Him, He again wraps us in His love. Prodigal son returned, Father put on the best robe, ring and sandals (**Luke 15:22**).

Tonight... remember the sacrifice made for you.... Jesus was our sacrifice.

He made you “a child of the king.” He was the atonement for our sin.

Maybe it’s time to come back home. The Sacrifice was great.

This Sacrifice isn’t just something to wear. Has a far greater purpose!!

Bible says: “walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” – **Eph. 5:2**

- **Let’s walk in God’s way of love.** . . loving Him, loving each other.

Jesus is our example of sacrificial love.

Sacrifice: to suffer loss of something for an ideal/belief, to give up, renounce.

Sacrifice - do we sacrifice for each other? Renounce selfish ways?

Give up stubborn hearts? Give in? Give our time?
Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” – **Matt. 16:24**

We could work a little more at denying ourselves.

Remember the sacrifice of the cross and follow Jesus’ example.

Stay positive. Test negative. “Once Again” by Matt Redman

Thanksgiving – 2 weeks.
