

## THE SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE OF AN AVAILABLE BODY

### *Lesson 6*

**INTRODUCTION:** Welcome to our final study in the Priests in Blue Jeans bible study series. We hope you have been encouraged and instructed to live out your priestly prerogatives each new day. In this final study you will discover the one essential thing upon which everything that you have learned thus far is contingent: Surrendering your body up to God.

- Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate your spirit to God's truths. Open your heart and mind before the Lord's words and give Him permission to speak!

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** If you were the pastor of your church, what is one thing you would do to encourage your congregation to get involved ?

### SCRIPTURE READING:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the **members do not all have the same function**, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **Having gifts that differ** according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **Romans 12:1-8**

### BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. According to this passage, what does the Apostle Paul instruct the body of Christ to do with its body?

2. Do you think that Paul is making a suggestion, or is he sharing an expectation?
  
3. What excuses do you think people make for not serving the Lord as part of their priestly calling?

*In an era of mega churches, multi-staff ministry, far too many believers are cheering from the sidelines thinking that they are not really needed. But this is far from the truth. The bigger the ministry, the more volunteers are needed. And more importantly, the Lord never intended the ministry to be left to the "professionals." Ted Montoya*

**Before you answer any more questions take a few moments and read the following Scriptures out loud:**

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But *I discipline my body* and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

**1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)**

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

**2 Corinthians 11:24-25 (ESV)**

4. From the scriptures above, what observations can be made about Paul's example of what it means to offer God your body as a spiritual sacrifice?

5. Paul exhorts the church to be transformed in its thought life, and to avoid taking its marching orders from pop-culture. What do you think this has to do with offering God your body in service?
6. According to Romans 12:2, what is the key to living in the perfect and pleasing will of God?
7. The Apostle mentions various ways in which God's people can serve Him according to how they have been wired by God (12:8-9). Which gift mentioned most closely represents how God has wired you?

**STORIES OF SERVICE:** If you are doing this study in a group setting, invite people to share a positive experience they've had when serving the Lord, both inside and outside your church.

## THE BIG ASK.

*Are you presently offering your body to the Lord in service in a way that compliments the way He has wired you? If so how? If not why not?*

**STOP & REFLECT:** Read Paul's advice to the Church below and let it sink in a moment or two.

**"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9**

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, close out this bible study series by doing the ONE THING upon which everything you have studied hinges; offering up your body to the Lord for service. Whether you're doing this study alone or in a group setting, get on your knees (if you can), and sincerely thank the Lord for his grace and mercy in your life. Picture yourself handing him your body. In your own words, share your love with him and tell him that you are available for his will to be accomplished through you.

**NOW GO AND REPRESENT, YOU WONDERFUL PRIESTS IN BLUE JEANS!**