Personal Devotions

Week 2: David A Cannonball of Sacrifice

Monday Read Matthew 4:18-22

Imagine looking ahead and seeing the steps to the diving board—just you and the board.

Now is the time to make your decision: Do you jump in? This week, we continue to look at what it means to plunge into the work of God's kingdom, to wholeheartedly	
jump into the pool of God's work. This is an invitation for you to live a life solely devoted to God's kingdom with Cannonball-like faith.	
Take a minute to recall times when you were faced with a choice: "Should I jump in or watch from the edge?" What did you do in those	
situations? Why? Which response comes more easily to you?	
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Read John 12:24-26 Tuesday

When someone leaps off the diving board for a Cannonball, there is no going back.

	The person is fully committed to the water. In a similar way, our walk with Jesus should be fully committed to Him. Jesus calls His disciples to soak themselves in God's way. There is no dry spot on a Cannonball disciple. When we are devoted to God, our lives are radically different from others. Think of ways in which you aren't fully soaked in God's work. What parts of your life are staying "dry?" How is God calling you to follow Him this week?
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Wednesday Read Luke 18:18-27

This rich young ruler had devoted a large part of his life to obeying God's rules.

man isn't willing to follow Him with Cannonball- like faith. Even though he followed the rules, he wasn't ready to follow Jesus. Was the security of wealth too seductive; was he afraid to give it all up to follow Jesus? Is your faith about following Jesus or following rules? What are your sources of security and how might they be an obstacle to following Jesus? Talk to God about the choices you must make to follow Jesus with a Cannonball faith. Will you say yes to the invitation to follow or will you walk away sad?	
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Read Luke 5:17-26 Thursday

Imagine their frustration.

Their friend is paralyzed but the crowds prevent them from reaching Jesus. They are faced with a decision: do they leave because of the barriers or do they pursue Jesus' healing, even if it takes them on the roof of a stranger's home? We must make that decision for ourselves as well. When we commit to following Jesus, we must follow Him every step of the way, through all of the obstacles. What are the barriers that block you from reaching Jesus? How could you break through these barriers?
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Friday Read Isaiah 65:17-25

Are you excited about the vision of God when you read Isaiah 65?

Can you picture a world like that one? God is in the business of restoring	
brokenness broken people, broken relationships, etc. And	
God gives us the chance to work out this vision in our everyday lives, having faith	
that God is restoring the world to this image. Isaiah 65 won't be complete until	
God brings a new heaven and earth, but this vision gives us a glimpse into how God	
desires the world to be. What can you do today to live this vision, trusting that one day	
it will be a reality?	
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Watch Week 2 LIFE Group Video. Videos can be found at communitycannonball.com.

Opening Discussion Questions

- 1. What is something you would say you have sacrificed in your life? What did that mean for you?
- 2. What is something that would be very difficult to give up something that if you were asked to give it up, you're not sure that you could?

Further Discussion from Scripture

Read each Scripture passage below and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the lines provided below before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

Do Not Give To The Lord That Which Costs You Nothing

Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25

"On that day Gad went to David and said to him, 'Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' 'To buy your threshing floor,' David answered, 'so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.' Araunah said to David, 'Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king.' Araunah also said to him, 'May the Lord your God accept you.' But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped."



In this passage, David is building an altar for the Lord. He is doing this for God, not for himself, and so he knows that the sacrifice won't mean anything (and won't even be a sacrifice by pure definition) if it doesn't cost him something.

1.	When we give to the Lord, sometimes only we (and God) know
	whether it is a sacrifice or not. A person can give a very large
	amount to the church and it not be honoring to God if it didn't
	really cost them anything. God wants us to give in a way that
	changes us and in a way that honors Him. What would it take in
	order for you to truly give in this way? What is holding you back?

Sacrifice Begins In The Heart Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14

"Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years. Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikmash and in the hill country of Bethel. and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes. Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, 'Let the Hebrews hear!' So all Israel heard the news: 'Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines.' And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal. The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. So he said, 'Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.' And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. 'What have you done?' asked Samuel. Saul replied, 'When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you



did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, I thought, "Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor." So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.' 'You have done a foolish thing,' Samuel said. 'You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

2.	Did you see what happened to Saul here? He basically tried to "pay God off." How many times have we tried to do this? How have you done this?
3.	Sometimes we have disobeyed God or possibly haven't truly trusted Him with where He is asking us to go, and then we just try to "give" or "compensate" our way out of actually having to love and trust God. Has this been you before?
4.	Doing a Cannonball is not just about giving money to the church. It is about something much more significant. It is about a true sacrifice of ourselves as we go into the water - a true giving up of us so that we can be more like HimALL-IN!!! Do you feel you are getting a better sense of what this will look like in your life? Share.



Give From What You Have

Read Exodus 35:20-29; 36:1-7

"Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun-blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do...So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded. Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, 'The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.' Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: 'No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.' And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work."



The remarkable thing in this passage is the multitude of different types of gifts that were given for the construction of the tabernacle—jewelry, garments, anointing oil, skilled labor. Whatever each person had to offer, they gave. So much so, that Moses had to stop the giving because it was too much!

5.	Often at times, our first objection when being asked to give is to say that we can't give because we don't have. Or "if I had more, I would give more." Or "if I had a job that paid better, then I could give." See, "not having" or "not having as much" are no excuses not to give. God isn't even asking us to give in that way. He is asking us to give from what we have. So what do you have, and are you giving it?
	ke money off the table for a second. Think about the other
ро	sources that you have purchased or that you have in your season—your home, your clothes, your electronics, your season kets for whatever team that you love.
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