

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

AFSHIN ZIAFAT

"THE CALL. THE JOURNEY. THE SACRIFICE."

Afshin Ziafat explains the extravagance of how sacrificial living and giving up our "one and only" treasures is true worship to God.

MESSAGE OPENER: During his reign, King Frederick William III of Prussia found himself in trouble. Wars had been costly, and in trying to build the nation, he was seriously short of finances. He couldn't disappoint his people, and to capitulate to the enemy was unthinkable. After careful reflection, he decided to ask the women of Prussia to bring their jewelry of gold and silver to be melted down for their country. For each ornament received, he determined to exchange a decoration of bronze or iron as a symbol of his gratitude. Each decoration would be inscribed, "I gave gold for iron, 1813."

The response was overwhelming. Even more important, these women prized their gifts from the king more highly than their former jewelry. The reason, of course, is clear. The decorations were proof that they had sacrificed for their king. Indeed, it became unfashionable to wear jewelry, and thus was established the Order of the Iron Cross. Members wore no ornaments except a cross of iron for all to see.

When Christians come to their King, they too exchange the flourishes of their former life for a cross.

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-donnie-martin-stories-christiandisciplines-faith-14375.asp>

READ: Genesis 22: 1-19

WATCH: Afshin Ziafat—Momentum 2013. 56 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/CallJourneySacrifice>

KEY POINTS:

The Call. The testing is not for God's benefit but for ours. James 1 encourages us to discover that God uses the trials in our life to test our faith and develop us to be more like Christ.

The Journey. Scripture gives so much detail for the journey. Why? You do not only worship when you are atop the mountain and laying the sacrifice down. It is in all of the moments leading up to that moment that consist of worship as well.

The Sacrifice. God provided a lamb atop mount Moriah. In the same way, Jesus is the ultimate substitutionary Lamb who took away our sin and took the ultimate payment for us.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

Dare to *not* Compare. Remember, the call is a personal call to you and your specific circumstances. You may have to let go of something completely different than your neighbor. Don't determine the level of your sacrifice based on a horizontal comparison. What has the Lord been speaking to your heart as you have listened to this teaching?

Worship Up. It is in all of the moments leading up to a sacrificial moment that consist of worship as well. Worship is in the day in and day out and not only during the high moments. How can your week to week living become worship?

Heart Check. When we relinquish all of our idols – we get to stand in the presence of God. Look at your heart. Be like the Psalmist who said "Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me."

Youth Leaders: Provide time for your students to evaluate their hearts and meet with the Lord to discover what he may be calling them to sacrifice. Be available for those who may need to talk through some of their thoughts.