

(4-5-20)

**DARING TO LOVE!
(IN DANGEROUS**

TIMES)

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TEXT: Ecclesiastes 9:2 All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; **to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not...**

Proverbs 28:13 He that **covereth** his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and **forsaketh** them shall have mercy.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable **service**.

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and **not** sacrifice; and the knowledge of God **more than** burnt offerings.

Psalms 51:16 For thou desirest **not sacrifice**; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The **sacrifices of God** are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 51:19 **Then shalt** thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh not all that he hath**, he cannot be my disciple.

Malachi 1:8 And if ye **offer** the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the **deceiver**, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and **sacrificeth** unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts...

Psalms 73:13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

Malachi 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Psalms 16:2 O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: **my goodness extendeth not to thee;**

"It is a greater glory to us that we are allowed to serve God, than it is to him that we offer him that service." (William Secker)

Psalms 50:12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

Job 22:3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?

Job 35:7 If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are **unprofitable** servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, **Lo**, we have **left all**, and have followed thee.

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an **hundredfold** now **in this time**, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and **in the world** to come eternal life.

Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend...

"...[it is] love allowed to lie hid in the bosom through false tenderness and fear of giving offence, and not manifesting itself, as it should, in reproving and correcting the faults of a friend." (*Family Bible Notes*)

John 3:16 For God **so** loved the world, that **he gave** his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us **not** love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that **God sent** his **only begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be **instant** in season, **out of season**; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all **longsuffering** and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...

Galatians 2:4 And that because of **false brethren unawares brought in**, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us...

2 Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, **in perils of robbers**, **in perils by mine own countrymen**, **in perils by the heathen**, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, **in perils among false brethren**; 32 In Damascus the governor...desirous to apprehend me: 33 And through a window

in a basket was I let down by the wall, and **escaped his hands**.

2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

"What God gives us is not necessarily 'ours' but only ours to offer back to him, ours to relinquish, ours to lose, ours to let go of, if we want to be our true selves. Many deaths must go into reaching our maturity in Christ, many letting goes."
(Elisabeth Elliot, *Passion and Purity*)

"There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket - safe, dark, motionless, airless - it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable." (C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*)

"Loving another does not ensure unending happiness. Spouses disappoint us. Friends betray us. Children rebel against us. Family members die and leave us."
(*The Gospel Coalition*; Courtney Reissig)

"To love means to open ourselves to suffering. Shall we shut our doors to love, then and 'be safe'?"
(Elisabeth Elliot, 1926-2015, *The Path of Loneliness*)