

# *Sacred Things In This Lost Generation*

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Mark 12:41-44 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

- I. God will judge us based more upon what we keep than what we give.
  - A. Very few people ever give it all.
    - 1. They give a little...out of their abundance, like all these rich people Jesus watched that day.
    - 2. They never go home empty, like the poor widow did.
    - 3. They always hold in reserve for themselves the things they love the most.
    - 4. They always make sure they have provision for themselves first.
    - 5. These people (and this is most people) are sure that God understands and is OK with them taking care of themselves.
  - B. Many people vacillate in this matter.
    - 1. They are sometimes stirred to surrender it all to God, and for a time seem to be on the right path, acting spiritual, interested in the Word of God, faithful to church.
    - 2. But then they will suddenly be found on the other side again, fellowshiping with lost people and involving themselves in worldly things and seeking after worldly pleasures with little or no interest in the things of God.
  - C. They give it and then take it back, and give it again, and take it back again, until God just refuses to accept their phony sacrifice and lies anymore.
  - D. It is like someone addicted to some habit or drug who keeps trying to quit it, but keeps going back and picking it up again; just can't kick the habit.
  - E. It is like the man or woman who vows to love their spouse and be faithful to them and then goes out and betrays their love and trust with someone else.
    - 1. And then comes back and promises again, and again breaks their vows and betrays the one they promised.
  - F. They prefer the company of the world and lost profane people to the company of God's people.
  - G. They prefer the atmosphere of the world to that of the church or any activity where "religion" is a part of the reason for the assembly.
  - H. They just never shake their worldly associations and affections for the things of the world.
    - 1. They keep going back and back, and the end is always the same: they finally stay where their heart really is, with the world and the enemies of God.
- II. The underlying reason for this lack of consecration and dedication is that nothing is sacred to this untoward generation.

- A. When our heart and mind are so dark that we cannot hold anything as sacred, holy, special, worthy of honor, then it is impossible for us to understand what God desires of us – He wants us consecrated to Him.
  - B. We did not see anything close to the level of instability in previous generations that we see now.
    - 1. I know many people who were saved years ago and have not wavered or wandered from their original consecration to God.
    - 2. The church only still exists because of people like that.
    - 3. The churches cannot survive in a generation that holds nothing as sacred.
    - 4. They will pass nothing to the next generation but hopelessness and misery.
  - C. Holy things are lost to this generation and absolutely nothing is sacred and no person is worthy of honor to them, including mother, father, pastor, policeman, or anyone else.
    - 1. Everything is just a “thing,” and everybody is just another “thing” that happens to be alive.
    - 2. Nothing is special, and no one is special.
    - 3. No *thing* is worthy of honor and no *person* is worthy of honor.
    - 4. The reason for this is that they have no real knowledge of God in their darkened soul; He is also just another “thing” in their opinion.
    - 5. This is also why they get so emotional over nothing; they have no real values or anything dear, so the only way they can experience those feelings are in some emotional drama based on fantasy.
    - 6. Another result of this loathing of honor, reverence of people and things is that they care for nothing; they do not take care of their stuff, and place no value on anything, except their phone or their tattoos, or their video game.
- III. Previous generations held certain things to be sacred things; things worth sacrificing for, fighting for, and dying for.
- A. The things that make for freedom and peace.
  - B. The country we live in and the banner which represents it.
  - C. The Word of God, the church, the people of God.
  - D. Marriage is a sacred thing, and the relationship between man and wife is a sacred trust between the two.
  - E. Homes and families and true friends.
  - F. Sacred things are those things that are entitled to reverence, respect, and honor.
  - G. It is obvious that this warped, crooked, perverse, unteachable, and unmanageable generation (which is the definition of untoward) regards nothing as sacred.
  - H. Sacred also means holy, consecrated, separated from secular, or common use.
    - 1. The word “common” in the New Testament means “defiled” “unclean” “polluted” and “profane.”
  - I. These younger generations are about to face the fire and they do not have what they need and no idea of how to obtain it.
    - 1. To reverence and hold in honor special people and things is something they have been indoctrinated to loathe with a passion.

Proverbs 30:11-14 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

- 2. This is that generation; “gen-z” – because it is the last generation.

- IV. We are to present our body a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God.
- A. Our body, mind, heart, and soul are to be consecrated to God.
  - B. Set apart for God's use – like a church building is, like the songbooks are, like the pulpit, and everything else that is used in the worship and service of God.
  - C. We are not right with God if we are not consecrated to Him.
  - D. He bought us with his blood and we are not our own; we belong to Him, body, soul, and spirit.
  - E. For a husband or a wife to take their body and defile it with someone else is to basically the same thing as someone who is part of the church taking their little self wherever they want without regard to God or his people.
  - F. To take our body and defile it, abuse it, use it for our own worldly pleasure, is spiritual adultery.

Consecrate - to complete, i.e. accomplish, or consummate:— finish, fulfil.

Consummate – to finish, to complete, to make perfect.

- G. Our LIFE, which includes all that we are and all the we have is to be consecrated to God or we are not really his – we are not really committed to Him, but holding in reserve in case we need out.
  - H. What is a marriage like when it is based upon that kind of consecration?
  - I. THIS is what God demands and requires or we do not really have life, but are still abiding in death.
- V. Some people never consecrate themselves to the Lord.
- A. They are not available...for the Lord, but they are always available for other people and other things.
    - 1. This is a key thing in consecrating ourselves to God – just being available.
    - 2. The kingdom of God comes first, not second, not after everything else is taken care of.
    - 3. If anything gets set aside it is my pleasure, my leisure, my own desires; it is certainly not anything that pertains to God and anything He is doing.
  - B. These are the people that will lose their lives, according to Jesus himself.
  - C. How much of you does God have?
    - 1. How consecrated to God are you, really?
    - 2. How much of your time, your earthly treasures, your strength, your mind, your heart?
    - 3. Have you ever really, truly laid it all down, once and for all, and left it there, without taking it back up?

Mark 4:16-19 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.