

Weekly Mom's Devotional

Week 3: From Sacrifice to Blessing

During my devotional time this week, God showed me something new about sacrifices and challenges. Looking at the life of Moses; he was not very confident and would tell God how he didn't have enough to offer. When God asked him what he had in his hand, he answered, "a rod." God showed me that when He asked Moses to throw the rod down, He was not just showing Moses what He could do with just a rod, but that He was asking Moses to give Him that rod as a sacrifice to Him (Myers). God also showed me that when we sacrifice something to Him, He often gives it back to us better than it was before or blesses us in a way that He couldn't without that sacrifice (Myers). He did this for Moses when He took that ordinary rod and applied His miracle-working power. He then turned it into a snake and used it later to part the Red Sea.

The Bible has many examples of God blessing people for their sacrifice and submission to Him. I will share only a few examples. When a destitute widow gave her last loaf of bread to Elijah, believing God's promise of provision, her flour and oil miraculously didn't run out until the drought was over (the Bible says "many days"). When Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only son to God, he was ready and willing to do so. For this, God blessed him throughout his life. He made him the father of many nations and gave us Jesus through Abraham's line. As a mom, I can't imagine a worse sacrifice or challenge than giving up a child, but God is not asking us to do this! Thank goodness! Often what God wants from us is something much

more manageable. He may desire generosity with our finances and things to bless someone. He may want us to give up something that is harmful to us, like our pride or an addiction, or to prioritize Him over something else that is taking up a lot of our time. If we do this, He can do amazing things through us!

What has God asked from you? What challenges have you gone through or are you going through? What have you had to give up? I'm sure each of us has had an area, or many areas, in our lives where we have asked God: "Why is this happening?," "How can you make something good come from this?," "What is your plan?," "How can you use me?" or other heart-pounding, tear-filled questions. Well, I can assure you that if you are following and trusting God, and you desire to be used by Him, He will turn all those areas in your life into something beautiful!

He seems to love to mold the rougher, uglier, and painful areas in our lives into beautiful miracles! Then He can use those testimonies, if we let Him, to help others going through the same things and to show the world how amazing He is! I have seen this in my life and in so many lives! I still struggle to stop worrying and focusing on the painful areas of my life; I need to give those things to God without taking them back to worry and plan myself. I'm not the most patient person in the world, and I'm learning to wait for God's timing.

So, I can't say it's easy. It will probably be challenging, but if you sacrifice these areas of your life to Him, He WILL bless you. He will give you opportunities to be used by Him, and you will bring God glory! See the next page for Scripture References and more!

Diamonds - Hawk Nelson (He's making diamonds out of us!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf1ARbpB0qA>

Scripture Verses

Moses and his staff: Exodus 4:1-5, Exodus 14:15-18

Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen ^[a]to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" ² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." ³ Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his ^[b]hand— ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Exodus 14:15-18

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall ^[aa]go through the midst of the sea on dry land. ¹⁷ As for Me, behold, I will ^[ah]harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen."

Widow and her bread: 1 Kings 17: 8-16 NASB

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a ^[d]jar, that I may drink." ¹¹ As she was

going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand." ¹² But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have no ^[e]bread, only a handful of flour in the ^[f]bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering ^[g]a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die." ¹³ Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from ^[h]it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'The ^[i]bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil ^[j]be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.'" ¹⁵ So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The ^[k]bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil ^[l]become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.

Abraham and his son: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-19

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you ^[b]fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place ^[c]The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will ^[d]be provided."

¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your ^[e]seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your ^[f]seed shall possess the gate of ^[g]their

enemies. ¹⁸ In your ^[h]seed all the nations of the earth shall ^[i]be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.