

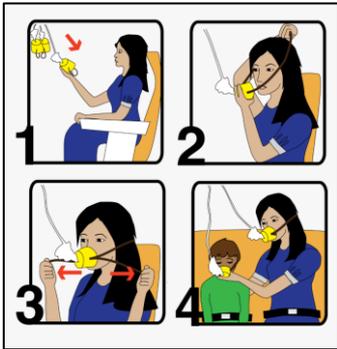


Don't forfeit what you want **MOST**
for what you want **NOW**.

Philippians 2:3-5 (NLT)

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.



Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Christlike selflessness includes a willingness to lay down our **RIGHTS** and pick up our **RESPONSIBILITY**.

John 10:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

How to choose Jesus as Lord:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Share ways you successfully/unsuccessfully chose to RESPOND and not REACT this past week. What happened? What would you do differently if you could?

:: Pastor Shawn challenged us to never forfeit what we want most for what we want now. How have you seen or experienced that tension in your life or others?

:: Read Philippians 2:1-11. Identify ways that Jesus demonstrated being selfless.

:: What are practical things we can do to follow his example in our daily lives?

:: Self-care is an essential part of being able to be selfless. Share how you are doing in that area. Why is it easy/difficult to be consistent in this area?

:: What is one way you can invest in your own life to be able to invest in others?

:: Ask someone you trust to pray for you as you seek to take that next step.

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – May 16 & 17, 2020

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