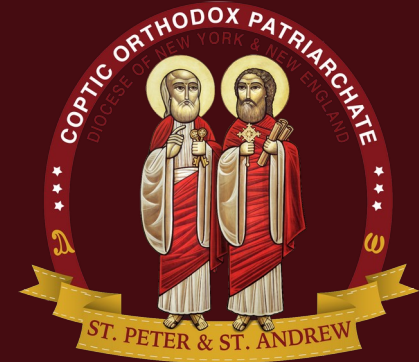




# What Is God Worth to Me?

Labor, Sacrifice, and Making Christ First



Servants' Meeting · St. Peter & St. Andrew Church

*What is God worth to me?*

The question we carry today

*Not “Do I love Him?” but: what am I willing to rearrange for Him?*

# Before we begin

WE SAY THIS FIRST

**Real burnout exists.  
Depression exists. Anxiety  
exists.**

The Church should help anyone  
who truly needs to step back.

Today we speak  
about the ordinary  
week, and what our  
schedules say about  
our priorities.

# Three points

1

**If Christ is first, something else must become second**

Seek first the kingdom of God

2

**Offer what you have, and let grace do the rest**

I labored, yet not I, but the grace of God

3

**Rest with a purpose**

Come aside and rest a while



1

# Christ first, and it costs

If Christ is first, something else must become second

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33

*If God is first, something else must be second.*

# What does “first” mean?

**Not** “when I finish everything else”

**Not** “if nothing else comes up”

**Not** “if I am not tired”

**First means  
something else  
sometimes has to  
become second.**

# Peter and Andrew leave their nets

*They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

Matthew 4:20

- Our patron saints were fishermen
- Their nets were not sinful
- Something good became second to Someone greater

**What are my nets? Christ is the One around whom the schedule is built.**

# We sacrifice for what we value



Driving hours for a  
child's tournament



Giving up evenings  
to pass an exam



Rearranging a week  
for a family trip

**Why must Christ be the one part of life that never inconveniences us?**

*Nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God  
with that which costs me nothing.*

2 Samuel 24:24

*Araunah offered it free. David refused.*

# What does my service cost me?

**An hour of sleep**

**A social event**

**A Saturday night  
of preparing**

**Money**

**Convenience**

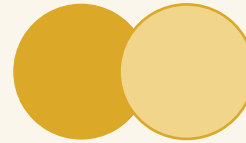
**Saying no to  
something good**

**If the honest answer is “nothing,” have I offered God anything, or only my leftovers?**

# The widow's two mites

*For they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.*

Mark 12:44



**God looks at the offering, not only the amount.**

What did my service cost me this month?

# A 168-hour examination

168

hours in a week. Where did they go?

- Work or school
- Sleep
- Family
- Phone, television, entertainment
- Going out and rest
- Prayer, church, and service

*Do not condemn yourself. Just look honestly.*



2

# Offer what you have, and let grace do the rest

I labored, yet not I, but the grace of God

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

1 Corinthians 15:10

# Grace does not eliminate effort

**I labor**

**God gives grace**

**I offer**

**God multiplies**

**I do my best**

**God fills what is lacking**

*One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,  
"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small  
fish, but what are they among so many?"*

John 6:8–9

*The sentence we say to ourselves, spoken by our own patron saint.*

# Bring your five loaves

## DO NOT SAY

- My lesson is not perfect, so I will not prepare
- I cannot come every week, so I will not commit
- The little I have does not matter

## BRING

- Your hour
- Your preparation
- Your imperfect lesson
- Your tiredness

**Your responsibility is the offering. The multiplication belongs to Christ.**

# Two ways to labor

**EGO SAYS**

**If I stop, everything  
collapses.**

**GRACE SAYS**

**I am not the Savior.  
Christ is.**

# Martha and Mary

*Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*

Luke 10:41–42

**Service was not the problem.**

Serving while disconnected from Christ was.

*A man must himself be cleansed, before cleansing others:  
himself become wise, that he may make others wise; become  
light, and then give light: draw near to God, and so bring others  
near.*

St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 2, §71

*The servant's first labor is to draw near.*



3

## Rest with a purpose

Wisdom is knowing the difference

*Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.*

Mark 6:31

*Rest is biblical. Rest is necessary. Rest can even be obedience.*

# Learn to tell the difference

**I cannot**

or

**I would rather not**

**I need rest**

or

**I do not want sacrifice**

**This is harming me**

or

**This is asking something from me**

*Have I reached my limit, or has service begun to cost me?*

# You do not carry it alone

Moses' hands grew heavy, so Aaron and Hur held them up until sunset.

Exodus 17:12 (paraphrase)

*You are not able to perform it by yourself.*

Exodus 18:18 (Jethro to Moses)

**The Church is a Body. No servant should carry everything alone.**

# Elijah under the broom tree

*Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.*

1 Kings 19:7

**Rest so you can  
continue, not so you  
can escape.**

# Three questions to carry

?

What is one thing I am willing to make second, so that Christ can truly be first?

?

What will my service actually cost me?

?

What are my five loaves and two fish, the things I must stop making excuses about and place in Christ's hands?

*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Galatians 6:9

*Paul does not shame us for growing weary. His answer is: do not lose heart.*

*When I think, “This is costing me too much,” I look at the Cross and discover another question: what was I worth to Him?*

The Cross

*He did not give me His leftovers. He gave me Himself.*

# What Is God Worth to Me?

He did not give me what remained. He gave me Himself.

*What will I offer Him?*

