Introduction

What is it that God wants the most?

He wants you – all of you.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is a TOTAL COMMITMENT.

We are to “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

- Offer – a decisive one time commitment.
- Sacrifice – a total commitment
- Living – our whole life from this day forward
- Bodies – our mind, eyes and ears, mouth, hands and feet
- Holy – pure, set apart to God
- Pleasing – The giving of ourselves as a living sacrifice is pleasing to God.
Why do we resist giving ourselves fully to God?
The biggest reason is fear.

Walter Henrichson in Disciples Are Made Not Born gives three reasons.
• He may ask us to do something we don’t want to do.
• We think we know what is best for us.
• We are not sure that God has our best interests at heart.

Yet what does God say?
“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

The motivation to give our life to Christ is grace.

II. TOTAL GRACE.
“Therefore, I urge you, brothers (and sisters) in view of God’s mercy…”
Therefore – based on what God has said in the first 11 chapters of Romans.
I urge you – I exhort you. I plead with you.

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.” Romans 8:32
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”  I Corinthians 2:9

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”  II Corinthians 4:17

“If we consider the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures...like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”  C.S. Lewis

What we gain is worth far more than what we give up.
Do you believe that?

III. TOTAL REWARD.

“This is your spiritual act of worship.”

The word spiritual is the word logiken. We get our word logic from it.

Surrendering our life totally to God is the most reasonable (logical) way to live. Anything less is insane.

The cost of non-discipleship is greater than the cost of discipleship.

- To the lost – who need to know Jesus
- To the poor and hungry – when we hoard our resources rather than give
- To you and me – if we choose to walk away and live for ourselves
Conclusion

Dear Jesus, Thou hast bled and died for me,
You washed away my sins at Calvary.
You saved my soul; You made me whole.
Dear Lord, I give myself to Thee.

Dear Jesus, Thou art everything to me,
And everything I own I give to Thee:
My wealth, my all, but most of all;
Dear Lord, I give myself to Thee.

“Dear God, Your will, nothing more,
nothing less, nothing else. Amen”
Bobby Richardson