

July 7 | Sunday

Playlist: The Ones That Didn't Make it Back Home

Read [John 15:9-17](#)



08 | Mon – Great sacrifices born out of great love | Read [John 3:16](#) and [15:13](#)

History is filled with stories of people who paid the ultimate price for those they loved. Best-selling fiction has been written on this theme of making sacrifices so others could live. Jesus gave high honor to those who laid down their lives for others, calling it the greatest kind of love - love in action. Who would *you* die for and why?

09 | Tue – No, after you | Read [1 Corinthians 13:5](#)

Self-sacrifice is the true measure of authentic love. It's the reason why people donate kidneys, give blood or pass up a 'golden' career opportunity that would diminish family life. Each day you make choices, consciously or unconsciously, which reveal how much you love God and care about others. It takes maturity to put your self second and it also honors God. So who will you step aside for today so they can be first in line?

10 | Wed – Protecting the vulnerable | Read [Numbers 26:59](#) / [Exodus 2:1-10](#)

Jochebed was a woman who knew the meaning of sacrifice. The king's edict mandated that every male Hebrew baby was to be thrown into the Nile. Courageously, she kept her beautiful baby boy as long as she could and then obeyed the edict, putting him into the Nile River in a basket, trusting God to do what she could not. Her baby's life was saved but he would not be known as her son. What kind of sacrifices do you make for the children in your life?

11 | Thu – To what lengths will love go? | Read [Ruth 1:15-18](#)

Ruth left her homeland and everything familiar to go with the mother-in-law she had come to love deeply. In a similar way, love for God motivates regular people to move across the world, learn a new language and build relationships with those who would never learn about Jesus any other way. You may never be called to do this, but are there people in your community or neighborhood you can introduce to God's amazing love through the gift of your time?

12 | Fri – Worth the risk? | Read [Matthew 3:1-2](#) and [14:3-5](#)

John the Baptist was passionate about everyone hearing of God's promises and the coming messiah who would change lives. It made him unpopular with powerful people who wanted to keep the status quo. John did not back down because he loved his people that much. Like John, you may not live to see the result of your sacrifice but God knows and will honor it. Is there something you might need to do today because it will change someone else's future?

13 | Sat – The great trade | Read [Matthew 19:16-30](#)

This young man was sincere in his quest but there were some things in his life that he could not let go. Contrast this with two sets of brothers - Peter and Andrew, James and John - who gave up everything to follow Jesus. Did they end up being rewarded with a comfortable life? What if the temporary things you 'give up' are really just being traded in for something else, something far better that will last forever?