



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

CAST

Jean - Mum
Paul - Dad
Flick - Daughter 1
Lara - Daughter 2
Sam - Son
Corps Officer

Letting Go

Sacrifice (Based on Luke 14 and Luke 18)

A row of chairs is set up on the stage. The family walk down the aisle and sit on the chairs - FLICK first, followed by PAUL, JEAN and SAM.

Jean: Now guys, let's remember why we are here and try to be good. Remember...

All: 'After all God has done for us, the least we can do is give him an hour of our undivided attention.'

Sam: We know, Mum - you say the same thing every week.
(LARA comes down the aisle.)

Lara: Mum, can I sit at the back with my friends?

Jean: No, Lara - you know how I feel. If you are committed to the singing company, you need to sit with them on a Sunday. It's only an hour of your time. It really is the least you can do. Now off you trot.
(LARA reluctantly walks back down the aisle.)

Jean: Flick, put your phone away - and Sam, stop fidgeting with your spinning thing.

Sam: Mum, it's a fidget spinner, you are meant to fidget with it.

Jean: Not in the Army you don't. Nobody got to Heaven on the back of being a fidget.
(FLICK leans across and whispers into her dad's ear. He leans over to JEAN.)





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Paul: Flick's friends are meeting in town and going to the cinema at 12 o'clock. It's OK if she leaves the meeting early, isn't it?

Jean: No, it is not OK. We all know the family rules...

All: 'After all God has done for us, the least we can do is give him an hour of our undivided attention.'

Officer: Today's Bible readings will be taken from Luke 18 and Luke 14, as we focus on what Jesus says about sacrifice.

(FLICK audibly sighs and SAM noisily opens a sweet that he has found in his pocket.)

Paul: *(whispers)* Hey, love, that's what you always go on about. Have you written the sermon?

Flick: We all know the punchline, so can I go?

Sam: Yeah, if it was your sermon you would finish with...

All: 'After all God has done for us, the least we can do for him is give him an hour of our undivided attention!'

(JEAN shoots them a look.)

Jean: Well, it wouldn't be a bad thing if a few people here paid more attention to what I say, but I'm sure that the Major will put it far more eloquently if you'd just listen!

Officer: In Chapter 18 of Luke, the rich official has just asked Jesus what he needs to do in order to gain entrance into the Kingdom of God. We pick up *The Message* translation when Jesus says:

'Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who have it all to enter God's kingdom? I'd say it is easier to thread a camel through a needle's eye than get a rich person into God's kingdom.'

'Then who has any chance at all?' the others asked.

'No chance at all,' Jesus said, 'if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it.'

And if we turn to chapter 14, Jesus tells the large group of people with him:

'Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters - yes, even one's own self! - cannot be





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple...
Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it goodbye, you can't be my disciple.

Salt is excellent. But if salt goes flat, it's useless, good for nothing. Are you listening to this?
Really listening?'

Flick: Mum, are you listening? Really listening?

(JEAN ignores her and looks straight ahead, clearly moved about what has been said.)

Officer: So in both of these passages, Jesus doesn't mince his words. He is firm, direct and to the point.

You cannot be a disciple by just giving up what you want to give up. It's not OK to make easy sacrifices and hold conditions with regards to the harder ones.

Some of you struggle with the smaller sacrifices. You think being here for an hour a week is enough of a sacrifice; that doing that makes you a Christian or a disciple.

Well, not in Jesus' eyes. Jesus doesn't say, 'Give up an hour of your time and you can be a disciple.' He repeatedly says to both the rich man and the crowd that you need to give up everything. Your plans? Your time? Yes! But much more than that. He says that you need to give up your loved ones and even yourself.

I'm sure that most of you are sitting there horrified. How can I give up my loved ones? My children? After all, God gave you your children. Why would he want you give them up?

Maybe for some, God does call them to be on their own, but on the whole Jesus is more likely to be saying that actually if you truly put God first, your relationship with your family will undoubtedly change. You may not have to give *them* up, but rather give up being in control of them and of your life.

And guys... there is good news! Jesus says to the rich official:

'No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it.'





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Let me repeat that to you:

‘No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it.’

So I ask you this morning, will you trust God to help you make the sacrifice that he is asking of you? It may be small, it may be life-changing; but trusting God and not trying to do it by yourself is the only way to do it.

Let’s stand and sing our closing song, ‘Trusting, trusting’, with the band.

(Jean remains sitting. She whispers to herself in a prayerful manner)

Jean:

Oh Lord, I was so wrong. An hour of our undivided attention isn’t the least we can give you. You deserve so much more than an hour. You deserve our all.

