

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

I am greatly indebted to my parents and grandparents. They came from a generation where the words “obligation,” “responsibility,” and “sacrifice” carried real weight. But in our culture today (even in the Christian community, sadly), the word “sacrifice” is not good to talk about. Ministries tend to focus on personal fulfillment, announcing, “Here’s what’s in it for you,” or, “Here’s how being involved in our organization will help **you** accomplish what **you** want to do.” That’s not all bad, but Jesus doesn’t call us to comfortable situations all the time. Some of us unwittingly promote the notion that it really can’t be the will of God if it makes me uncomfortable or I have to give up something.

The Apostle Paul had a different mindset about his calling. He understood the not-so-popular side of following the Lord Jesus. Listen to what he says about the cost of service in 1 Corinthians chapter 4, verses 10 through 13; “We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are proved in Christ... To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty and are poorly clothed and are roughly treated and are homeless and we toil, working with our own hands. When we are reviled we bless. When we are persecuted we endure. When we are slandered we try to conciliate. We have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things even until now.”

I don’t think Paul is stretching the point. He’s saying, “Look, this is what happens sometimes when you follow the Savior. It’s not all personal fulfillment and peaches and cream. This is part of identifying with the suffering Savior.”

Here’s what I want you to remember today. There are times along the journey when we have to lay aside what we want simply because it’s not part of the call. Keep moving ahead. Pay the price.