

23 The life and death of Jesus - Self sacrifice

Consider some or all of the following hypothetical situations either as a group or in pairs. Some Bible references are given to help you. Can you think of others?

Some of the Bible passages may suggest that there are 'simple' black and white answers to questions like these, and we know that sometimes there are not. But we do need to recognise that the Bible is teaching us important lessons, and to work out how to apply the principles, even if our actions may vary depending on the exact situation.

You will also find that some of the situations do not directly apply to you. That doesn't mean that they are irrelevant, and you should still try to work out the principle that the Bible is teaching; you may then find that it does affect you after all!

Some hypothetical situations

Your parents, not Christadelphians, have booked a holiday for you with them. You have booked to go on a Bible campaign or a Christadelphian camp. What should you do? Matthew 19:29; 1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 6:1



You have just finished university and have been offered a high-powered, well paid job which would regularly take you abroad. Should you take it? Matthew 6:33; Matthew 19:16-30.

You had intended to visit a lonely, elderly person but get an invitation to do something you really enjoy. What would you do? Galatians 2:20.

After an ecclesial billing day when you distributed a bundle of leaflets, there are several bundles left over. You hate billing but you know you have some free time in the coming week. What would you do? Matthew 5:40-42.

You have an opportunity at school or college to say something about your beliefs. You know you are shy, not very articulate and that you won't come over well. What would you do? Matthew 28:19-20.

You are becoming increasingly friendly with a member of the opposite sex who is not a Christadelphian. Should you give him/her up for the sake of your faith? Matthew 19:10-12, 29.



You are extremely good at sport or music, which makes demands on your time, particularly at weekends. Does being successful in sport or music at a high level, compromise a life in Christ? Matthew 6:33.

A rather odd lonely person whom you met on a Bible campaign phones to ask if he or she can visit for a weekend. You wonder what your friends will make of him or her. You know you won't know what to say to this person. What do you say in reply to the phone call? Ephesians 4:2; Hebrews 13:2.

Your bone marrow is needed to save someone's life. There is an element of risk to your own life. Would you:

- Agree to donate it to a close relative?
- Agree to donate it to someone you don't know?
- Donate to a person who murdered a close relative?
- Not take the risk?

Romans 5:6-8.

Do you:

- Rush for the best seat?
- Take the best cake?
- Push into queues?
- Watch a television programme on the only set in the house when you know someone wants to watch something else?

How often do you offer to wash up or fill the dishwasher?