

Short Talk

(SHT094)

Selfless Choices

© Jane Hulme 2018

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “Selfless Choices”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to follow Jesus’ example of putting other people’s needs before their own.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Jesus, Good Shepherd, Selfless Choices
- Biblical references:** John 10:11-18
- Lectionary:** Year B – The 4th Sunday of Easter

I wonder how easy you find it to put somebody else’s needs before your own;

- to give up what you want so that somebody else can be blessed.

Let’s have a simple quiz and see how you get on.

- I am not going to ask you to put your hands up to answer.
- I just want you to think deeply about what you would really do.

1) Imagine that you are travelling on a train to London with your family. An old lady gets on the train a few minutes after you have sat down. Would you:

- Enjoy chatting with your family and ignore the old lady
- Tell the old lady that there are seats in one of the carriages near the end of the train
- Offer your seat to the old lady so that she is comfortable

So, one of the things that we can give up to bless somebody else is our **comfort**.

- Another thing that we can give up to bless someone else is our **time**.

2) Imagine that you are enjoying watching your favourite television programme of the week and your mobile phone rings. You see that it is your friend ringing you.....the friend whose mum has just died. Would you:

- Answer your phone immediately and tell your friend that you will ring them back when the television programme has finished
- Answer your phone immediately and listen to your friend for as long as they need to talk with you
- Ignore your phone and let it go to ansaphone

There are all sorts of ways of giving up our time to bless someone else aren’t there?

- As well as giving time to listen to other people, we can also give time to pray for other people, or help them in some practical way.

Another thing that we can give up to bless someone else is our **money**.

3) Imagine that you are in church when one of the leaders gives a talk about people in the world who don't have clean water to drink. They say that if everyone gave some money it would be possible to buy some water filters which would provide clean water to a village in Africa. Would you:

- a) Give all the money that you have in your bank account, or your savings box to the water project
- b) Decide that everyone else is giving money so you don't need to give anything
- c) Give a generous amount of money to the water project – maybe some of your holiday fund.

That last question was a hard one wasn't it?

- Who would give all the money that they had so other people they didn't even know could have water?
- I doubt that any of us here would do that would we because if we did then we wouldn't have anything left for ourselves?
- No-one is that selfless are they?

There is however one person who is that selfless.

- That person is Jesus.
- He said, "*I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary.*" (John 10:11 The Message Version)

Jesus didn't simply give up comfort, or time or money for us.

- He was willing to give up His actual life for us, when He was crucified on a cross, so that we can have life to the full.
- That is the most selfless choice anyone can ever make.

Let me encourage you to follow Jesus and see how many selfless choices you can make this week.