



WOC's Special guest, Chad Robichaux, is a former Force Recon Marine and DoD Contractor with eight deployments to Afghanistan as part of a Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) Task Force. After overcoming his personal battles with PTSD and nearly becoming a veteran suicide statistic, Chad founded a leading non-profit Mighty Oaks Foundation serving the active duty, military veteran and first responder communities around the world with highly successful faith-based combat trauma and resiliency programs. Having spoken to over 275,000 active-duty troops and led life-saving programs for over 4,000 active military and veterans at four Mighty Oaks Ranches around the Nation, Chad has become a go-to resource and is considered a subject matter expert on faith-based solutions to PTSD, having advised the former Presidential Administration, Congress, the VA, the DoD, and was appointed to serve as the Chairman of a White House Veterans Coalition.

Chad's message on the importance of a life of sacrifice and service is grounded on Jesus' own selfless servanthood and ultimate sacrifice. But this message can be translated through the dramatic stories of modern-day warriors and their lives of sacrifice. Chad counsels us that, as precious as our lives are, our lives are not about us—getting our desires met and fulfilling our own agendas. It's about God's purposes and choosing to obediently serve and sacrificially lay down our lives for others. When we do, we have the power to bring meaningful spiritual change to others and to the culture around us.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

What are some practical ways we can serve others and "lay down our lives" daily?

OUR PRIMARY PROBLEM: SELFISHNESS

- **The Problem:** We live our lives believing the world revolves around us, and we are the centers of our own universe. This has caused us to lose the heart of sacrifice and service on both a personal and cultural level.
- **The Resolution:** Become willing to literally lay down your life for someone else—for someone you might not know and with no promise of "return of investment." But how do we get to this place?
- **The Answer:** God gave us the best example. We see Jesus bear the indescribable anguish and weight of choosing to die for us, and we see this clearly in the Garden of Gethsemane before His betrayal and arrest.
- **The Application:** Access Emplacement: Plan & Preparation
Chad shares tragic events where sacrificial service was met by God's miraculous interventions:
 - Fox New Correspondent Benjamin Hall's 2022 rescue after Kiev bombing attack: When the urgent call and opportunity to serve came, funds had already been raised for ambulance purchases, making them available when the time for rescue access into Ukraine was desperately needed.
 - Be prepared to complete the assignment and then be prompted into a secondary mission, as it did when the next call came to go back into a warzone to compassionately retrieve deceased Fox News Cameraman Pierre Zakrzewski's body from Kiev.
- **The Result:** Brave people ready and willing to lay down their lives for those they don't know just because it is the right thing to do.

In what ways have you experienced sacrificial love from others, and how did it impact you?

SELFISHNESS: NO PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN

- Laying down your life could mean something much more difficult than sacrificing physical life. It could mean:
- Putting your needs, goals, hopes, dreams second to those you love
 - Inconveniencing yourself for the benefit of others
 - Putting in the hard work to rescue those spiritually lost

How can you encourage others to overcome selfish tendencies and prioritize the needs of others?

POSITION YOURSELF TO PAY IT FORWARD--HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME

- It is crucial to be humbly willing to get help. It makes all the difference in moving forward in God's plan for your life.
- Know and understand that discipleship and ministry is hard because of what's at stake for God's Kingdom.
- Remember that it doesn't have to be worth it to do the right thing.

FOUR FRIENDS—Tearing Off the Roof for Their Friend

Determined Self-Sacrifice

Luke 5:17-19 ¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ **When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.**

Jesus First Addresses the Spiritual Problem

Luke 5:20 ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Expect Resistance

Luke 5: 21 ²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus' Intervention & The People's Response

Luke 5:22-26 ²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Share some ways Christians can demonstrate faith and trust in Jesus, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges?

SACRIFICE & SERVICE

Who are you tearing off the roof for to get them to Jesus? You see, bringing broken people to a place of hope in Jesus is difficult. It takes sacrifice, but it's worth it. When you stand up to walk from where you were before Jesus to where God has taken you, people will be amazed—and God will get all the glory. Your story will bring hope to others and bring the change that the world around us desperately needs. We have the power to change our culture and the future by being the selfless and courageous men and women that God created us to be.

How can you intentionally prioritize sacrifice and service in your life, and what steps can you take to do so?

PRAYER

Lord, forgive us for the selfishness that affects each of our lives. We ask You to challenge us, convict us, and reveal Your higher calling to lay down our selfishness and be the men and women You have created and called us to be. Help us be world changers and Kingdom builders to raise up the next generation, teaching them to do the same so the Kingdom of Heaven might be expanded. Thank You for letting us be a part of what You are doing. In Jesus' name, amen.