

# Would You Sacrifice Your Son?

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LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—A friend recently told me about a conversation he had with a Muslim.

Question: "Do you believe in Jesus?"

Answer: Of course the answer was yes. Of course Muslims believe in Jesus.

Question: "Do you believe He is the Son of God?"

Answer: "No. What father would sacrifice his son in such a horrible manner?"

How would you answer that question? If Jesus were God's Son, how could He do such a thing to Him?

Is John 3:16 a sufficient answer?

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . ."

Maybe that verse is good enough to show how much love God has for us, and that's why He would do such a thing, but it's only a partial answer.

It's a partial answer because it's based on a faulty assumption. It assumes that the decision that Jesus would report for duty as the sacrificial lamb was the Father's idea, and He drafted Jesus in a Selective Service kind of way.

Jesus said otherwise.

*John 10:17-18*—"My Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

As He was about to be arrested, He asked a revealing question.

*Matthew 26:53*—"Do you not think that I cannot pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

I can imagine a conversation similar to what a father and son might have where the son decides to join the Marines.

The father might not want the son to put himself at risk of the ultimate sacrifice, but the son loves his country so much that he volunteers for duty.

The father might try to talk him out of it, but in the end the father is proud of his son for his willingness to sacrifice in the service of a great cause.

Could a similar conversation have taken place sometime in ages past?

- The Father did not order the Son to do anything.
- It was the Son who enlisted—not drafted.
- The Father (if we are to believe Jesus' words) gave Jesus the authority at any step of the way to opt out.
- And He volunteered for one reason. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).
- This might defy reason for some in this world, but we do not need to sacrifice ourselves for our God.
- Our God sacrificed Himself for us.