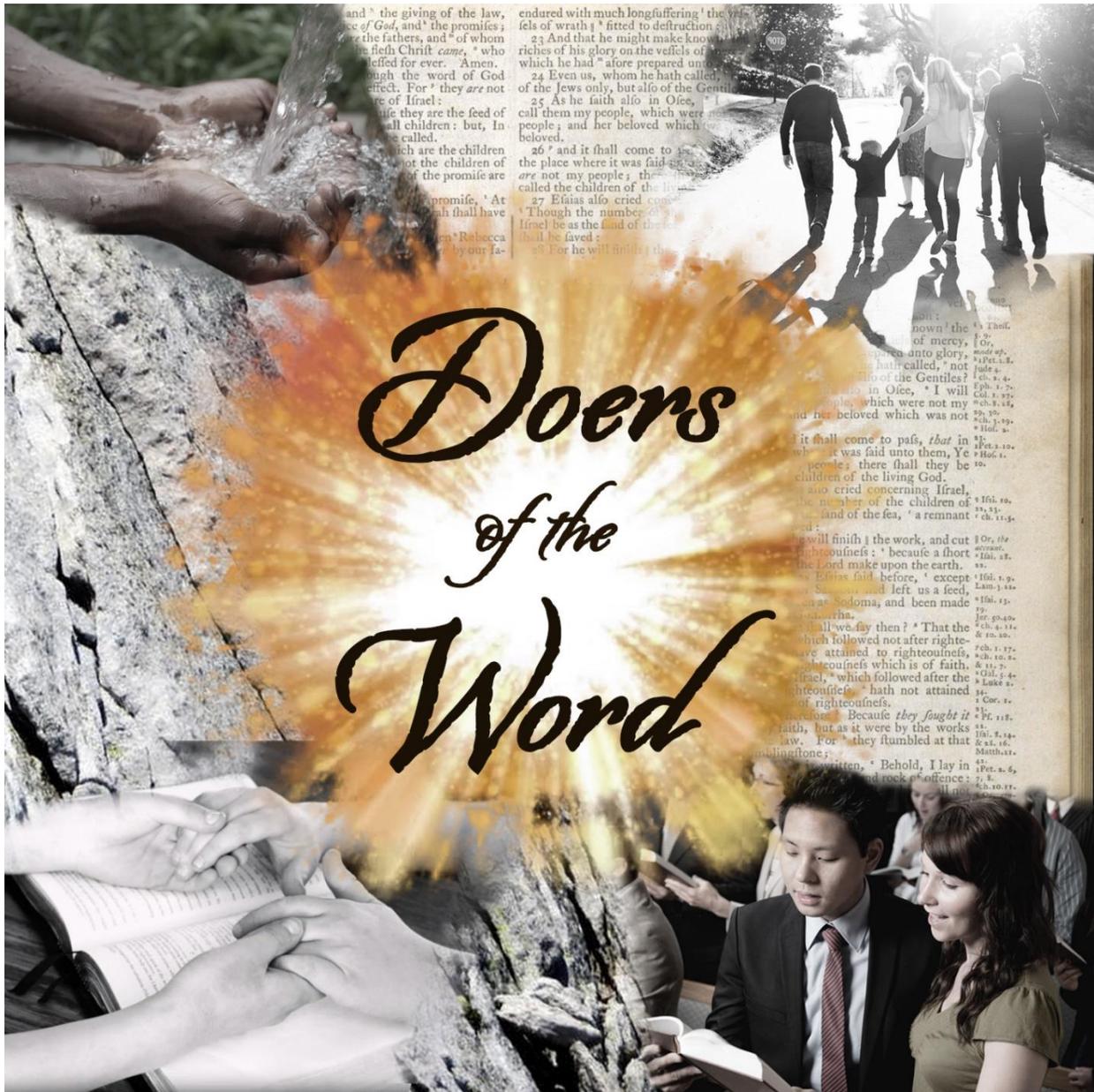


STAYING ON THE ALTAR

Lessons on Sacrifice and Sacrificial Living



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INTRODUCTION

Our goal for the next three years to become DOERS OF THE WORD. This follows from our previous three years: PEOPLE OF THE BOOK become DOERS OF THE WORD. Each year will have a different focus each beginning with the phrase “Each day I’ll...” Year one’s focus is “Each day I’ll do a golden deed.” This comes from the opening phrase of the song “A Beautiful Life.” Such a goal is going to require sacrifice. If we are to do a good deed for someone everyday, that will require giving up something that we would rather keep for ourselves. It may be time, money, or energy.

- When we get home from work, we might like to rest and watch TV but our spouse may be cleaning...what will we do?
- Our favorite show is on but our children need help with homework...what will we do?
- It’s Saturday and we worked 50 hours this week. Now we rest. But elderly sister Beatrice needs help with her lawn...what will we do?
- You haven’t had a vacation in a long time. You’ve been saving and you are almost there; could we not give? Just this month? What will we do?

Sometimes doing good for others costs little to nothing. We can make a phone call to check on brother Johnson on the way home from work. We can give a dollar to the person asking for money at the grocery store. We can take our leftovers to Sister Gertrude (we aren’t going to eat them anyway). I’m not saying these aren’t good things. But we are called to sacrifice and that often requires giving up something valuable to us for someone else, be it God, a brother or sister in Christ, or our neighbor. What did David say when Ornan tried to give the King the threshing floor so he could offer a sacrifice? “I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).

In this quarter’s study we want to come to a better understanding of sacrifice and how to be sacrificial people. On Sundays we will discuss a number of different issues concerning sacrifice (burnt offering, idolatry, living sacrifices). On Wednesdays we will look at various Biblical characters who are noted for their sacrifices so we can learn from their example, whether positive or negative.

Our goal is to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. The title of our study comes from Brother Saint’s powerful quote one night in Bible class: “The problem with living sacrifices is that they won’t stay on the altar.” Let’s learn how to stay on the altar.

Schedule of Lessons

Sunday, January 5	1. What Is Sacrifice	Romans 12:1-2
Wednesday, January 8	2. Adam and Eve / Cain and Abel	Genesis 2-3; 4
Sunday, January 12	3. Why Sacrifice?	
Wednesday, January 15	4. Job and Noah	Genesis 6-9; 8:20-22; Job 1:1-5; 42:7-9
Sunday, January 19	5. The Levitical Sacrifices (Part 1)	Leviticus 1-3
Wednesday, January 22	6. Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph	Genesis 12; 17; 22; 32; 35:1-4; 39
Sunday, January 26	7. The Levitical Sacrifices (Part 2)	Leviticus 4:1—6:7
Wednesday, January 29	8. Moses	Hebrews 11:23-29
Sunday, February 2	9. The Day of Atonement	Leviticus 16
Wednesday, February 5	10. Rebekah, Ruth, and Abigail	Genesis 24; Ruth; 1 Samuel 25
Sunday, February 9	11. Nadab and Abihu	Leviticus 10
Wednesday, February 12	12. David	2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21
Sunday, February 16	13. When Sacrifice Is Not the Answer	Psalms 51:16-19; Isaiah 1:10-17; Jeremiah 6:20; 7:21-26; Hosea 6:6; 8:13; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8
Wednesday, February 19	14. The Israelites and the Tabernacle / Solomon and the Temple	Exodus 25:1-9; 35:20-35; 36:2-7; 1 Kings 8
Sunday, February 23	15. Sacrifice to Idols	1 Samuel 5; 1 Kings 18; Colossians 3:5
Wednesday, February 26	16. Elijah and Elisha	1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 22
Sunday, March 1	17. Jesus and the OT Sacrifices	Leviticus 1-6
Wednesday, March 4	18. The Prophets	Isaiah 6:1-8; 20; Jeremiah 16:1-2; Ezekiel 24:15-18; Daniel 3 and 6; Hosea 1-3; Jonah
Sunday, March 8	19. Overview of Hebrews	Hebrews
Wednesday, March 11	20. Ezra and Nehemiah	Ezra and Nehemiah
Sunday, March 15	21. Learning What God Expects	
Wednesday, March 18	22. Martha / Peter's Mother-in-Law / Tabitha	Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 8:14-15; Acts 9:36-41
Sunday, March 22	23. Living Sacrifices	Romans 12
Wednesday, March 25	24. Paul	Philippians 3; Acts 14; 16; 2 Corinthians 11:2-28; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-13
Sunday, March 29	25. What Are We Sacrificing?	
Wednesday, April 1	26. Jesus	John 13; Philippians 2; Isaiah 53

WHAT IS SACRIFICE?

As we begin to think long and hard about sacrifice it may be best to begin with a couple of questions. First, what is sacrifice? Second, why sacrifice? Let's think about the first question today. At its foundation, what does sacrifice mean? Is it a noun or a verb? Do we give sacrifices or are we sacrifices?

- How do dictionaries define the word sacrifice?
- What are some synonyms?
- How does a Bible dictionary define the word sacrifice? (You might consult Vines or biblegateway.com)
- Outside of Jesus, what Bible character do you think of when you think about sacrifice?
- What does the phrase "ritualistic sacrifice" mean?
- What are the different types of sacrifices discussed in Leviticus 1-6?
- Give one passage that discusses Jesus' death on the cross as a sacrifice.
- Apart from Romans 12:1-2, give one passage that discusses our lives as a sacrifice.

ADAM AND EVE / CAIN AND ABEL

In terms of traditional sacrifice, we often think of Cain and Abel's as the first in the Bible. But a small detail in Adam and Eve's story may prove something else. Sacrifice can be positive in nature, like what Cain and Abel do. But, more often than not, sacrifice is related to sin and the reconciliation we sinners need with God.

- **Read Genesis 2-3:** What were Adam and Eve given? What were they asked to sacrifice?
- What kept them from this sacrifice/obedience?
- The clothes that Adam and Eve made for themselves were not enough. What does God use to cover their sin-revealed nakedness?
- What have you been taught was wrong with Cain's sacrifice?
- **Consider Genesis 3:21:** could this verse be instructive of what kind of sacrifice God expected?
- **Further consider Leviticus 2:** it is often suggested that Cain's sacrifice was not accepted because it was not an animal offering. What does Leviticus 2 discuss?
- **Consider Genesis 4:4:** What is specified about Abel's offering?
- **Consider Hebrews 11:4:** we may speculate about Cain's offering but what does this passage clearly imply was wrong with it?

WHY SACRIFICE?

Our second introductory question concerning sacrifice is “why?” The Israelites were not the only people to practice sacrifice. Every nation did, but often in a different manner and with different thoughts than Israel. Many nations viewed sacrifice as the feeding of their gods (cf. Acts 17:24-25). God is quite clear about His self-sufficiency (cf. Psalm 50:12-13). Many nations kept the vital organs in order to manipulate them to discover the will of the gods or the future. This practice was strictly forbidden in Israel (cf. Deuteronomy 18:9-14). Almost all ancient nations believed they could influence or manipulate the gods with the right sacrifice. This is not the picture we get with Israel’s sacrifices. The point is that Israel was clearly doing something different in sacrifice.

- How would you define the goal of sacrifice in Israel?
- What connection does scripture make between sin and sacrifice?
- What connection does scripture make between love and sacrifice?
- What does Jesus teach us about sacrifice?
- How does sacrifice manifest itself in marriage? Parenting? The local church?
- What characteristic is God trying to grow in us?
- What traits is God trying to rid us of?

JOB AND NOAH

As we think about the numerous people of the Biblical story, there are many examples of ritual sacrifice and personal sacrifice. Noah exemplifies both while Job is possibly the first example of a priest or mediator helping to bridge the gap between God and man.

- **Read Genesis 6-9:** What does Noah sacrifice to be obedient to God? What does Noah sacrifice to save himself and his family?
- **Consider Genesis 8:20-22:** What is the first thing Noah does when he gets off the ark?
- What application can we make from these facts?
- **Read Job 1:1-5:** Why does Job offer these sacrifices?
- **Read Job 42:7-9:** How is Job acting as a priest/mediator?
- While it is not a voluntary sacrifice, what does Job lose because of his devotion and faithfulness to the Lord?
- What might we lose because of our devotion and faithfulness to Christ?
- **Consider Revelation 6:9-11.** Where are these martyrs located? What does that imply? How does this relate to Job?

LEVITICAL SACRIFICES (PART 1)

Sacrifice was at the heart of the Israelites worship of God. Their days began and ended with sacrifice. There was sacrifice for sin, sacrifice for cleansing, sacrifice for vows, etc. But the Israelites were not to give God what they thought best. If they wanted to offer sacrifice, they were to follow the strict guidelines for what God desired and commanded.

- **Leviticus 1:** What is the first sacrifice described in Leviticus?
- What was the purpose of this sacrifice?
- How many versions of the burnt offering were there?
- **Leviticus 2:** What is the sacrifice described in this chapter? What do various versions call this sacrifice?
- What was one of the main purposes of this sacrifice?
- What were the various ways one could prepare a grain offering? What was to be included and what was to be kept away from this offering?
- **Leviticus 3:** What sacrifice is described in this chapter?
- What animals were acceptable to God for this offering?

ABRAHAM, JACOB, AND JOSEPH

This lesson will help us to see the multifaceted nature of sacrifice. Sacrifice is not just taking an animal from the herd, killing it, and placing it on the altar. This is what we think of as ritualistic sacrifice. Sacrifice is also the surrendering of yourself, your rights, and your desires for God or your neighbor. Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph have a lot to teach about sacrifice.

- **Abraham: Read Genesis 12:1 and Hebrews 11:8-10.** What does Abraham sacrifice?
- **Abraham: Read Genesis 17:1-14.** What does Abraham sacrifice in order to have a relationship with God?
- **Abraham: Read Genesis 22 and Hebrews 11:17-19.** What does obedient sacrifice to God require?
- **Abraham: Read Genesis 12:7, 8; 13:4, 18.** What does Abraham do in every place to which he moves? Think about this in comparison to John 4:21-24.
- **Jacob: Read Genesis 32:3-5, 13-21.** What is Jacob doing?
- **Jacob: Read Genesis 35:1-4.** What must we do before we approach God in worship?
- **Joseph: Read Genesis 39:1-23.** What does Joseph sacrifice to maintain his integrity before Potiphar and the Lord?

LEVITICAL SACRIFICES (PART 2)

Last week we covered the first three of the five main sacrifices discussed in the first few chapters of Leviticus. We will cover the final two today.

- **Leviticus 4:1—5:13:** What sacrifice does this chapter cover? How do various versions refer to this sacrifice?
- What types of sins is this sacrifice for?
- What is the sacrifice for a priest who sins? The congregation? A leader of the people? A common person? The poor? The very poor?
- **Leviticus 5:14—6:7:** What sacrifice does this chapter cover? How do various versions refer to this sacrifice?
- The procedure for this sacrifice is not mentioned here, but it is briefly discussed in Leviticus 7:1-10 and Numbers 5:5-10. What is the procedure?
- When was this sacrifice to be offered?
- In addition to the sacrifice, what is the worshipper to do?
- Note: Leviticus 14:12, 20-21; 19:20-22; Numbers 6:12; Ezra 10:19; Isaiah 53:10

MOSES

Not only was Moses the deliverer of the Law centered around sacrifice, he was a man of great personal sacrifice. He is a wonderful example of what it means to give to the Lord in ritual sacrifice and sacrifice yourself for the benefit of others and in service to them.

- Before reading any of his story, what are some occasions you remember Moses making a personal sacrifice for others?
- What was Moses hesitant to do at the burning bush?
- How many times did Moses stand in the breach, between the people and God's wrath?
- **Read Hebrews 11:23-29:** according to this passage why was Moses willing to sacrifice comfort and wealth? Why was Moses willing to sacrifice his own life in order to lead the ungrateful and abusive Israelites?
- How did Moses get in trouble in Numbers 20?
- What does Moses teach us about leadership?

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The biggest day of sacrifice on the Israelite calendar was the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16). It was the one time that one man could enter into the most holy place. Holy God can only be approached by holy men and that demands sacrifice.

- What animals and clothing was needed for the Day of Atonement?
- What was the High Priest to do for himself first?
- Why were there two goats?
- What was Aaron doing by sprinkling the blood throughout the tabernacle?
- What was Aaron to do with the remaining goat?
- How were the participants of this day to cleanse themselves?
- What was the whole assembly to do on this day?
- **Leviticus 16:6, 11, 17, 21-22, 24, 30, 33-34:** What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement?

REBEKAH, RUTH, AND ABIGAIL

I am aware that these three individuals do not go together but they each have an exemplary attribute that is accentuated in their stories. Can you remember how these three women were sacrificial in their dealings with others?

- **Genesis 24:** We could look at the servant as an example of service and sacrifice. How?
- **Genesis 24:15-21:** How much water can camels drink? How many camels did the man have? How did Rebekah have to get this water?
- **Ruth 1:6-18:** What does Ruth sacrifice to remain with Naomi?
- What does Ruth ultimately do in this section?
- **Ruth 2 and 4:** How is Boaz an example of sacrifice?
- **1 Samuel 25:** What had David done for Nabal's shepherds?
- What was Nabal unwilling to do?
- What characteristics does Abigail display in this story?

NADAB AND ABIHU

Just because God desires sacrifice does not mean he will accept anything we offer. As the creator of all and the one worthy of all praise and worship, He has all rights to specify what he wants. We have the obligation to comply. Here is a story of some who forgot that lesson.

- **Consider Leviticus 8:4, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 29, 36; 9:6, 7, 10, 16, 21:** What is the emphasis in these verses?
- What should grab our attention in Leviticus 10:1?
- How does God respond to obedient sacrifice in 9:22-24?
- How does God respond to profane sacrifice in 10:2?
- Might this impact how we worship today?
- What lesson did God intend the people to learn from this episode?
- **Leviticus 10:6-11:** Why were Aaron and his sons told not to mourn Nadab and Abihu?
- What does God want from us?

DAVID

There are many lessons to learn from David's life, but in this study, we want to focus on a specific phrase made before his sacrifice at Ornan's threshing floor. This story is told in two places and a different name is used for the owner of the threshing floor but it is the same man.

- What ways did David show himself to be a man of sacrifice?
- **2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21:** What did David command of Joab? How did Joab respond?
- What punishment did David choose and why?
- What would stop the pestilence?
- What sacrifice was Ornan willing to make?
- What does David say in response to Ornan's offer?
- What are some sacrifices that cost us nothing? Does that mean they are of no value?
- What do true service and sacrifice look like?

WHEN SACRIFICE IS NOT THE ANSWER

As important as sacrifice was in the Old Testament, it was not a magic pill in dealing with sin or averting God's anger. It is well and good when someone apologizes for doing something hurtful, but if they continue the hurtful behavior and expect an apology to make everything better, the apology does not mean anything. So it is with sacrifice. David will tell us clearly what God wants before sacrifice.

- **Psalm 51:16-19:** Why would God have not been pleased with a sacrifice from David before this time?
- **Isaiah 1:10-17:** What nullifies all the religion in the world?
- **Jeremiah 6:19-20; 7:21-26:** What goes with sacrifice?
- **Hosea 6:6; 8:12-13:** Sacrifice is worthless if you are missing _____ and _____.
- **Amos 5:21-24:** What does God prefer to sacrifice?
- **Micah 6:6-8:** God does not desire some fabulous sacrifice. What is truly good for us?
- **Matthew 23:23:** How do we balance specific laws with love?

THE TABERNACLE / THE TEMPLE

The Tabernacle and temple were places of sacrifice. This lesson will emphasize the sacrifices required to construct and dedicate them.

- **Exodus 25:1-9:** What was to be sacrificed for the building of the tabernacle?
- What kind of sacrifice did God ask for in verse 2?
- **Exodus 35:20-35:** What kind of sacrifices do the people make for the tabernacle?
- **Exodus 36:2-7:** What had to be done concerning the contributions for the tabernacle?
- How long did Solomon spend building the temple? How long did Solomon spend building his palace?
- **1 Kings 8:62-64:** How many animals were offered as a sacrifice when the temple was dedicated?
- What did they have to do since there were so many animals?
- What can we learn from Solomon's successes in worship versus his failures in his "personal" life?

SACRIFICE TO IDOLS

You can forgive some of the Israelite interest in idolatry. It is was all the other nations did and some of them seemed to succeed. But God was very clear about idolatry from the beginning of His relationship with the Israelites. The facts that it was an abomination and foolish are emphasized repeatedly.

- Most pagans believed they had to feed their gods, what shows that was not the case with sacrifices to God?
- What are the first two commandments?
- **1 Samuel 5:** How did God show Himself superior to Dagon?
- What was wrong with Jeroboam's new religion?
- **1 Kings 18:** How did God show Himself superior to Baal?
- What abominable practice was related to the god Molech?
- **Consider Isaiah 40-48:** Which of Isaiah's rebukes of idolatry resonates with you?
- **Colossians 3:5:** How do we practice idolatry?
- What other things and activities might be considered idolatry?

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Elijah and Elisha are men who exemplify sacrifice in their personal lives. How much did they give up to preach the truth of the one, true God?

- What did Elijah give up (or sacrifice) before King Ahab in order to be faithful to God?
- **1 Kings 18:** What did Elijah demonstrate as he prepared his sacrifice on Mt. Carmel?
- What did Elijah sacrifice as he fled from Jezebel?
- Where did Elijah live? What did he wear? What did he eat?
- **1 Kings 22:** What did Micaiah sacrifice to speak the oracles of God?
- What do God's prophets risk every time they speak the word of God?
- What do we risk when we stand for the word of God, especially when it goes against our culture?
- What are we willing to sacrifice in order to stay faithful to scripture?

JESUS AND THE OT SACRIFICES

We, rightfully, say that everything in the Old Law either pointed to or is fulfilled in Jesus. He claimed such in Matthew 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” In this lesson I would like to think about the Levitical sacrifices discussed in lessons 5 and 7 and see how they pointed to Jesus or how he fulfilled them.

- **Leviticus 1:** How is Jesus the culmination of burnt offerings?
- **Leviticus 2:** Is there any connection between Jesus and the grain offering?
- **Leviticus 3:** How might Jesus’ sacrifice be described as a peace offering?
- **Leviticus 4:1—5:13:** How does Jesus fulfill the purification offering?
- **Leviticus 5:14—6:7:** The guilt offering teaches that sin is debt. What connection might we make with Jesus?

THE PROPHETS

When we think of the prophets we usually think of their writings, but we also want to remember the men behind the writings and the intense things God sometimes asked them to do. These were men of great sacrifice. As we serve God, as we share the gospel with others, it may cost us. Are we willing to sacrifice to serve God and share the good news with others?

- **Isaiah 6:1-8:** What lesson can we learn from Isaiah in this short story?
- **Isaiah 20:** What did Isaiah have to do in order to be a faithful prophet of God?
- **Jeremiah 16:1-2:** What did Jeremiah have to sacrifice in order to serve God?
- **Ezekiel 24:15-18:** What did it cost Ezekiel to serve the Lord faithfully?
- **Daniel 3 and 6:** What sacrifice were Daniel and his friends willing to make for the Lord?
- **Hosea 1-3:** What did Hosea sacrifice in his service to God?
- **Jonah:** What was Jonah not willing to do in order to serve God?

AN OVERVIEW OF HEBREWS

The epistle to the Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians to stay faithful to Christ. They were tempted to abandon Him because they were being persecuted by their Jewish brethren. They thought life would be easier if they returned to being just Jews. The writer argues from every angle he can to convince them of the superiority of Jesus.

- How is Jesus superior to the prophets and angels?
- How is Jesus superior to Moses?
- How is Jesus superior to Aaron?
- Where does Jesus serve that is better than the tabernacle?
- How is Jesus sacrifice superior to that of bulls and goats?
- According to Hebrews 13, what kind of sacrifices are we to offer?

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

After the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem the Israelites spend another 50 years in Babylon (70 years total) in captivity. They were away from their land, their temple, their place of worship. Just as they were taken from Israel in three deportations, they came back in three groupings. The first was led by Zerubbabel, the second by Ezra, and the third by Nehemiah. Their work involved the rebuilding of the city and the temple and reestablishing scriptural worship to God.

- What did it take for men like Ezra and Nehemiah to lead these groups back to the promised land knowing the difficulties before them?
- Consider Ezra 9-10: What was required of those who had married foreigners (pagan Gentiles)?
- Who was Nehemiah?
- What did Nehemiah give up to return to Jerusalem and help the people?
- Nehemiah 5:14-19: What further sacrifices did Nehemiah make for the people?
- Ezra 2:68-69; Nehemiah 7:70-72: What sacrifices did the people make for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and her temple?
- As the people restored the city, the temple, and proper worship, on what did they place their emphasis?

LEARNING WHAT GOD EXPECTS

We have emphasized numerous times that God does not accept any sacrifice we may give Him. He is specific in what He desires and has every right to be. After all this study of sacrifice, are we able to see what God desires?

- What did God want from Cain and Abel?
- What did God want from the Israelites as they prepared the tabernacle?
- What did God want from Nadab and Abihu?
- What did God want from David?
- What did God want from the prophets?
- What did God want from sinners?
- What did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman God wanted?
- What does God want from us?

MARTHA / PETER'S MIL / TABITHA

In this lesson we will examine some lesser known characters who can teach us about sacrifice and service. Their stories do not overlap but they cannot fill a lesson on their own. Sometimes it is the small things that make sacrifice and service powerful—things you might normally overlook.

- **Read Luke 10:38-42:** Was Martha sacrificing and serving?
- Why was Martha rebuked?
- **Read Matthew 8:14-15:** What was Peter's mother-in-law's first action after she was healed?
- **Read Acts 9:36-41:** How is Tabitha described?
- When Tabitha died, what did the people remember and say about her?
- When might be a time to stop working and "choose the good portion"?
- What excuses do we use to keep from serving others?
- What will people remember about you when you die?

LIVING SACRIFICES

In many ways, this is what all of these lessons have been pointing toward. We may very well lose our lives for the sake of Christ and become a sacrifice like many before us. But now we are called to be living sacrifices. Since we are not dying for one another, Paul says we ought to live for one another. And as our dear Brother Saint said, “The problem with a living sacrifice is they keep crawling off the altar.” We must remember where we belong!

- **Romans 12:1-2:** If we are going to be living sacrifices, what can we not do?
- What must we do instead?
- One of the ways the Israelites worshipped God was through sacrifice. What is our worship or service to God?
- **Consider Romans 12:3-8:** If we are going to be living sacrifices, how should we view ourselves in relation to our brethren?
- What characteristic does this require?
- **Consider Romans 12:9-21:** how would you connect these admonitions with being a living sacrifice?
- Which of these commandments do you struggle with the most and why?

PAUL

It seemed like every time I passed Carry Allen she had ice packs wrapped on her knees and shoulders. She was a volleyball player at Florida College and she gave her body to the game. It didn't matter how hard the floor was, if she had to dive to get to the ball she would deal with the pain later. In a similar, yet more serious way, the apostle Paul gave his body to the service of the Lord. Whatever the cost, Paul always seemed willing to pay.

- **Philippians 3:** What did Paul's salvation cost?
- **Acts 14:19-21:** What price was Paul willing to pay in his role as apostle?
- **Acts 16:16-34:** How did Paul respond when called to make unjust sacrifices?
- **2 Corinthians 11:23-28:** What did Paul's preaching cost?
- **2 Corinthians 12:15:** Could we say that this verse is Paul's motto in his work?
- **Philippians 4:10-13:** How was Paul able to make all these sacrifices?
- For whom are we willing to spend and be spent?
- What keeps us from giving our bodies to the service of God?

WHAT ARE WE SACRIFICING?

This is a lesson for class participation. Where and what have we sacrificed? Where can we do more? Let's get uncomfortable...that's how you grow!

- What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for the Lord?
- What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for something you want?
- What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for someone?
- Where do you struggle to serve and sacrifice?
- What can you do to grow in that regard?
- What is more painful for you: the sacrifice of time or money?

JESUS

I hope it is obvious why I saved our discussion of Jesus till the end. What better way to end a discussion of sacrifice than by talking about God coming to earth in the form of a man to die the death of a slave?

- What did John the Baptist say that made it clear that Jesus would be a sacrifice for sins?
- **John 13:** How is this scene a microcosm of Jesus' reason for coming to earth?
- **Philippians 2:1-11:** While the rest of the world is concerned with "moving on up" what did Jesus do?
- Consider the last hours of Jesus' life: What do you think was the most difficult? The waiting? Not retaliating? The physical pain? The emotional agony?
- What does Isaiah 53 say about Jesus' sacrifice?
- What passages explain why Jesus' gave Himself up for us?
- Consider the sacrifice of The Father as His son gives Himself up.
- How can we use this to motivate us to love, sacrifice, and good works?