

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING MESSAGE

AUGUST 16, 2020

The Gift of an Esteemed Heart

THE INTRODUCTION

A "Nice" Gift

Unwanted Bequests

God View of the Unwanted

Example One

Malachi 1:6-9 A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I *am* a father, where is My honor? And if I *am* a master, where is My fear? says Jehovah of Hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. And you say, In what way have we despised Your name? (7) You offer defiled bread upon My altar; and you say, In what way have we defiled You? In your saying, The table of Jehovah, it is a thing to be despised. (8) And if you offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? And if you offer the lame and the sick, *is it* not evil? Bring it now to your governor. Will he accept you, or lift up your face, says Jehovah of Hosts? (9) And now entreat the face of God, that He favor us. This has been by your hands, will He lift up your faces, says Jehovah of Hosts?

Example Two

Isaiah 58:1-6 "Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. (2) Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. (3) 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. (4) Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. (5) Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? (6) "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

Brief Review in Context

THE TEXT

Psalms 51:15-17 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (16) For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Open My Lips

Show Me Unmerited Favor

Psalms 51:14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

Unimproved Grace a Crime

Romans 1:20-21 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

...and my mouth will declare your praise

Hypocritical Worship a Mockery

Leviticus 13:45 "The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'

Sincere Worship a True Offering

"If we have through faith in Christ received the righteousness and grace of God, we can do no greater work than speak and declare the truth of Christ." A soul released from guilt, and wrath, and shame, cannot but publish in some fit way the goodness of God displayed towards it. PLUMER

(16) For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Two Things to be Grasped

First

Hebrews 9:9-10 ...symbolic for the present time in

which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— (10) concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

Secondly

Exodus 21:14 "But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

Leviticus 20:10 'The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

God ordained no bleeding victims for murder, or adultery, or for any of the sins of heart that led to these. In such a case he did not desire, would not accept a burnt offering. PLUMER

David Would Have if they Could Have

No Deals

Micah 6:6-7 With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? (7) Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:11 Shall I count pure those with the wicked scales, And with the bag of deceitful weights?

(17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Acceptable Sacrifices

Rare and Valuable

But why should I offer him that he cares not for? my heart, I know, he cares for; and if it be broken, and offered up by penitence and contrition, it is the only sacrifice that now he delights in. Richard BAKER

Pleasing to the Mediator

...though other things may be the worse for breaking, yet a heart is never at the best till it be broken; for till it be broken we cannot see what is in it; till it be broken, it cannot send

forth its sweetest odor; and therefore, though God loves a whole heart in affection, yet he loves a broken heart in sacrifice. R. BAKER

The Mortared Spirit

... in a moral sense, signifies such a weight of sorrow as must wholly crush the mind without some powerful and seasonable relief. — Samuel CHANDLER.

Psalms 102:17 He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer.

Why Sacrifices at All?

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

THE CONCLUSION

1) We need to be sure that...

Leviticus 10:3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 22:32 You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,

2) The present circumstances, where people tend to be so much on edge, both within and without the Church, demand ...

Colossians 3:12-14 ...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

3) When you believers first came to Christ,

Romans 4:4-5 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. (5) But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,