

Leviticus 1:1-6:7
Jesus Provides Us with the Way to Draw Near to God
Imitators of Christ
September 30, 2012
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction: Children's Sermon

A. God's House, Priests & Sacrifices

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

B. Jesus has asked us to give ourselves away to the people around us, ***what kinds of things could you give away?***

C. Do you want to give these things away? **Or**
Do you want to keep them for yourselves?

II. Review: (Substitute Life & Death)

A. The "Way of the Sacrifices"

1 Corinthians 10:18

¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices ***participants in the altar?***

1. The Burnt Offering (Single-minded Commitment)
2. The Grain Offering (Life, Labor)
3. The Peace Offering (Reconciliation)
4. The Sin Offering (Purity)
5. The Guilt Offering (Payment)

(Why bring these offerings?)

Mark 12:32–34 (Scribe; Love God & Neighbor)

"You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And ***to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.***" ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." ...

Matthew 9:13 (Quoting – Hosea 6:6)

¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘*I desire mercy, and **not sacrifice**.*’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

B. Jesus Shows us the Real “Way of Sacrifice”

Hebrews 10:1

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect *those who draw near*.

Hebrews 10:8–10 (vs. 5-7 Quoting Psalm 40:6–8)

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in *sacrifices* and *offerings* and *burnt offerings* and *sin offerings*” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And *by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*.

God did not ultimately take pleasure in animals slaughtered, chopped up, and turned into smoke on the altar, did He? No! God really delights in the sacrifice of his people. This is why we say that the foundational sacrifice of Christ has not simply put an end to all sacrifice and offering, but instead has manifested its true meaning. Jesus shows us *the way of sacrifice*, true human sacrifice, in His life and self-giving death on the cross. ¹

1st Key Idea

The obedient life and death of Jesus is the “pleasing aroma”, the “fragrant offering...to God” spoken of in Leviticus 1-6.

¹ Meyers, Jeffrey J. (2011-06-30). The Lord's Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Worship (p. 64). Canon Press. Kindle Edition.

III. We Are Called To Imitate Jesus

Ephesians 5:1–2

¹ Therefore be *imitators of God*, as beloved children. ² *And walk in love, as Christ loved us* and gave himself up for us, a **fragrant offering and sacrifice to God**.

A. How & Why We Offer Our Lives to God?

Romans 12:1–2

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by** the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing *you may discern what is the will of God*, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Main Key Idea

Jesus takes our place as our perfect sacrifice so that when we draw near to God we are accepted as perfect. At the same time, Jesus also unites us to himself enabling us to serve God as “living sacrifices” our lives being continually conformed into the likeness of Jesus.

B. What Kinds of Things Should We Give Away?

Philippians 4:18

¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus **the gifts you sent**, a **fragrant offering**, a **sacrifice** acceptable and **pleasing to God**.

Hebrews 13:15–16

¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect **to do good and to share what you have**, for such **sacrifices** are **pleasing to God**. (Cf. 1 Peter 2:13–25)

B. What if we wish to sinfully keep on serving ourselves?

Hebrews 10:22–29

²² *let us draw near* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And *let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ²⁶ ***For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.*** ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ *How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?*