

Do Not Eat Leftovers

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Leviticus 19:5-8 And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will. It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire. And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted. Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

- I. It's been a while since we went over the offerings so we should do a brief review.
 - A. The sin offering is to atone for our sinfulness.
 - B. The trespass offering is to acknowledge and seek forgiveness for our particular sins against God and other people.
 - C. The burnt offering speaks of consecration to God through the death of the old man.
 - D. The meat offering speaks of the consecration of the new man to the service of God.
 - E. The peace offering is a demonstration of the fact that the new man is at peace with God and others – no more enmity, no more struggling against God and his truth, no more strife with his people.
 1. The peace offering and the burnt offering were most often made together.
 2. The peace offering was of two types: an offering of thanksgiving and an offering signifying vows or voluntary offerings (simply giving to God and others.)
 3. If it was for thanksgiving it was to be eaten all that same day.
 4. If it was for a vow or a voluntary offering it could be eaten that day and also on the next day.
 5. It served as sort of a testimony of a right heart with God and the intention to serve Him faithfully in the future.
 6. The peace offering was shared among the people and everyone ate of it.
- II. The meat of the peace offering was to be eaten the same day, or the following day, but absolutely not on the third day.
 - A. It was about more than getting sick from eating bad meat.
 - B. The priest may do his part, but if the people do not do their part it is not accepted of God.
 - C. The significance is that what we are served in the house of God together we are to take and swallow it down now – not later.
 - D. Spiritual nourishment always comes through the Word of God.
 1. It is the bread of life and necessary for spiritual life.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- E. This command not to eat of the peace offering on the third day speaks of the fact that we need fresh bread from heaven every day.
 1. We cannot continue to live off of the same meat that we got in the past, even if was as recent as the day before yesterday.

- F. It also speaks of the fact that Jesus was sacrificed but rose the third day.
 - 1. To continue to eat of the peace offering is to deny, or fail to acknowledge His resurrection.

Ephesians 2:14-16 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

- III. It is a very serious matter here, because the penalty is to be cut off from among the people.
 - A. Other than death, this is the most serious penalty imposed by the law of God.
 - B. Therefore, there must be much more meaning to this than even what we have talked about so far.
 - C. God considers it a great sin to profane things that are holy and that is the main issue here.

Leviticus 19:8 Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

- D. To profane is to make common and unclean.
 - 1. By the third day it will have ceased to be so special.
 - 2. The more often we partake of something, the less special it gets.
 - 3. In fact, it becomes common and monotonous and we become apathetic about it.
- E. The peace offering is about having a right heart before God and his people.
 - 1. Fellowship must be maintained and renewed often by communion together. (not the Lord's Supper)
- F. The peace offering was not only about what the priests served but it came from the people individually.
 - 1. When they partook of the meat of the peace offering they were aware that it was provided by someone else in the congregation.
 - 2. We edify one another often and all of us sacrifice to help nourish one another spiritually.
 - 3. Any attempt to eat it on the third day shows that no one is giving and no one is providing anything to help the souls of the brethren.
- G. We should always have fresh meat at the church – we should not be trying to eat old leftovers from the past.
- H. When you come, bring something for everyone.
- I. When we plan a dinner together everyone is glad to bring something; why not think the same way about spiritual things.
- J. It would not work very well if every time we had a fellowship dinner the preacher was the only one who brought any food.
- K. It will not work very well if he is the only one who ever contributes to the spiritual food that each of us need to survive in this world.
- L. Let's not let the food spoil and let's have enough to eat so that no one is trying to eat leftovers that will poison their soul.
- M. And let's work together to make sure that no one has to go home hungry.