Series: Sacrifice

**How to Express Your Love to God**

Leviticus 2:1-13 June 11, 2017

Intro:

* Different cultures give gifts in different ways, but gifts express who we are and what’s important to us.

1. A Jewish farmer's offering of grain.

a. The bake-a-cake offering included only the best ingredients.

* v. 1 *fine flour* – the staple of Israelite diet
* v. 1 *oil* – Psalm 45:7 *the oil of gladness*
* v. 1 *frankincense* – a sacred gift

b. The bake-a-cake offering excluded ingredients of corruption.

* v. 4 *unleavened wafers*
* v. 5 *it shall be of fine flour unleavened*
* v. 11 *No grain offering … shall be made with leaven*
* v. 11 *you shall burn no leaven nor any honey … to the LORD*

c. The bake-a-cake offering included a reminder of the covenant.

* v. 13 *You shall season all your grain offerings with salt*
* v. 13 *… the salt of the covenant*
* v. 13 *… with all your offerings you shall offer salt*

d. God needs nothing, and doesn’t eat cake, and yet He is pleased!

* vv. 2, 9 *a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD*

Q. What would it feel like to bake a cake for God?

Q. Why would God take pleasure in a cake He can’t eat?

Q. Why might making God a cake without the salt (reminder of the covenant) cause confusion for the worshipper?

2. The Son of God's offering of Himself.

a. Jesus made an offering of His life to us.

* John 6:35 *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*
* Luke 22:19 *And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

b. Jesus made an offering of His life to God, on our behalf.

* Ephesians 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

c. Jesus made an offering of His life as an example for us to follow.

* John 12:23-25 *23And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

Q. How is Jesus’ offering similar to the Jewish farmer’s?

How is it different?

Q. At the Lord’s Supper, it’s Christ’s gift, His offering of the bread that represents His life that we eat and give thanks for, not our bread offering. Why is that important?

Q. What are some of the things that you think “dying” means in your life and career?

3. The offering that God asks of each of us.

a. God asks us to offer our lives not our cake.

* Romans 12:1-2 *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. 2Do 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.*
* Sacrifice is the act of giving up something that you want to keep, in this case out of gratefulness to God.

b. We offer ourselves through our praise, service and money.

* Hebrews 13:15-16 *15Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*
* Philippians 4:18 *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.*

Q. What aspects of the Christian life feel like a sacrifice to you?

i.e. you’re conscious that you’re giving up something

Q. Which area of sacrifice in Hebrews 13 is hardest for you?

Q. Has there been anything that’s helped make giving tithes and offerings less of a sacrifice and more of a privilege to you?

Study ahead: Next week we’ll study Leviticus 3:1-5, 7:11-21.

**Notes:**