Series: Sacrifice

**Shalom: How to Find Peace with God**

Leviticus 3:1-5; 7:11-18 June 18, 2017

1. To know peace, the war has to end. (Leviticus 3:1-2)

a. If you’re trying to find something, start where you last saw it.

* Genesis 3:10-12 *And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”*
  + Adam hides from God, blames his wife and blames God for his actions. The conflict has begun.

b. A terrorist won’t find lasting peace through meditation.

* Colossians 1:21 *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds*
  + To find peace we have to deal with the hostility.

c. The peace offering began by pointing to God’s atoning sacrifice.

* v. 1 *offer* [an animal] *without blemish before the LORD*
* v. 2 *lay his hand on the head of his offering and kill it*
* v. 2 *the priests shall throw the blood against the sides of the altar*

d. We can’t experience peace without faith in Jesus as our atoning sacrifice.

* Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Q. What are some of the ways that you see non-Christians around you seeking peace?

Q. When people seek peace without God through e.g. meditation or drugs what are they really experiencing?

Q. Why is peace with God necessary to experience real peace?

2. To know peace, you need fellowship with God who is the source of peace. (Leviticus 3:3-5)

a. The peace offering was unique in that it was a meal shared with God.

* v. 3 *a food offering to the LORD*

b. God was the most honoured guest at the shalom party.

* v. 3 *he shall offer the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails*

c. We can’t experience peace without regular fellowship with God.

* Philippians 4:5b-7 *The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
* John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

Q. How would the worshipper have felt to prepare a meal for God and then eat in His presence?

Q. If we have peace with God through faith in Christ, why do we need fellowship with God to experience that peace?

Q. How is your fellowship with God doing these days? Does it bring you peace?

3. To know peace you need fellowship with others who have found the same peace. (Leviticus 7:11-18)

a. Peace offerings were accompanied by bread to make a feast for the priests and the worshippers.

* vv. 12-13 A variety of baked goods, both leavened and unleavened, were to be offered with the peace offering.

b. Peace offerings couldn’t be preserved so people had to invite others to join the shalom party.

* vv. 15-16 Peace offerings for thanksgiving had to be eaten the same day, for vows the next day.
* v. 18 *If any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering is eaten on the third day, he who offers it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be credited to him. It is tainted, and he who eats of it shall bear his iniquity.*
* A mature bull could yield 1000 ¼ pound hamburgers and a sheep or a goat could serve more than 50 people.

c. We can’t experience peace with God without regular fellowship with other believers.

* Romans 14:19 *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

Q. What would be the impact of people inviting friends, relatives and strangers to join them to celebrate their peace with God?

Q. Why isn’t fellowship with God enough? Why would fellowship with other people be an important part of experiencing peace with God?

Q. How do you think you need to grow in your fellowship with others?

Study ahead: Next week we’ll study Leviticus 4:1-5:13.

**Notes:**