

## Title: The Sacrifice

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 6/16/24

This is the second part of a series the Lord has been giving me. Last week we talked about the cost of sacrifice and the very heavy price that the Lord was trying to relay on the cost of what our sin does and the cost to atone for it. Atonement is a very important thing in understanding sacrifice. Atonement means when someone has been wronged or wronged someone else, there is a payment. But, how do you pay for something of the soul? How do you pay for a wrong that has happened in the spirit to someone else?

God allowed for that to be paid for with a very heavy cost from your sustenance and your house. You will take something innocent, and you will put your hand on the innocent life and kill it. Its blood and its life will pay for the wrong that your soul has committed. We have talked about the heavy cost of that. There were five sacrifices or offerings *listed* in Leviticus, applying to the cost of sacrifice. I am going to tell them to you in reverse order, so that we end on the one that we focused on.

The fifth one was the “guilt offering or the reparation offering.” The guilt of my actions has influenced more than just me as a person. It has influenced my family. It has influenced the land. It has influenced the atmosphere. I am paying for the guilt of my actions.

The “purification offering,” was a cleansing offering for the purifying of unintentional sins. I did not mean to do wrong, and it washes it away clean.

The third one was the “peace or the fellowship offering” which was actually a feast of thanksgiving between the priest and his household and you and your household. It was the third or the final action of what the burnt offering sacrifice of atonement started.

The second one was the “grain or the gift offering,” done after you gave a massive cost for the atonement. You gave a gift and thanksgiving. Often it was a gift of grain. The priest would take it and pour oil on it as a drink offering unto the Lord. We have heard these things, but the point of it was a gift of thankfulness. Scripture says in Malachi, that “you will bring tithes and offerings.” The tithe was required, but the gift offerings are on top of that tithe. It was not required, but you would want to do that.

The final one in reverse order was the one that I talked about the most last week. This was the “burnt offering or the sacrifice,” that you would burn all on the altar. You would go to the temple or the tabernacle of God. Between you and God there was a fire burning on an altar. To get to God, you must burn. It is interesting. We talk about that. “Believe Jesus or burn,” some people would say. But, Jesus is saying, “Burn now,” for Him, so you do not have to burn later. We say, “Fall on the Rock, before the Rock falls on you.” Okay, fall on the Rock, Jesus. Don’t let the Rock fall on you. That is not actually my quote. That quote is by Jesus in the Bible. He actually says that, “Fall on the Rock, lest the Rock fall on you.” Burn now. Burn away, now. Burn it all for Him now. Because, there will be a burning. Do you understand that?

Between you and God is a burning altar, and the priests were in charge of making sure there was wood prepared for there was always something on the table that the fire was burning. The priests of the house of the Lord are to be ministers of the flame and ministers of preparing the wood. They would also be responsible for the blood. They were in charge of the blood of the animal or the livestock that you gave. They were responsible for looking you in the eyes as they

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took the sacrifice that you butchered, you washed, you cleansed, and that you prepared for the altar. You couldn't just give the animal to the priest. You had to put your hand on it. You had to strike it to kill it. Then you couldn't just leave it. You had to skin it, then you had to chop it up, and you had to realize that you just destroyed your future. If you were a very wealthy man, you gave your best bull. It had to be without blemish, had to be a male, and had to be a year old. Basically, it would be the thoroughbred of your stock. If you were a middle class man, it had to be the best lamb or the best goat of your flock. If you were poor, then it could be a turtle dove or a young pigeon. But, you had to catch it. How many days would it take for you to catch a young wild pigeon? How much time would it cost you? That's what God's saying. You might not own anything, but it's going to cost you your time to get it, because of your sin. They were required to place their hand on the animal. The priests were then to catch the blood, so they could administer it. Then they left you to do the butchering and prepare the animal for the fire.

You often read in scriptures in the New Testament, of “a pleasing sacrifice, a pleasing aroma, or you would be washed by the water of His word.” The language of the sacrifice filters through in the New Testament when you understand the process. What you were washing off was the excrement that would come from the intestines as that would spill out on the rest of the sacrifice. So, you had to “cleanse it of its filth.” You had to cleanse it. You had to feel that blood. You had to burn it, and that aroma might not be pleasing to you. But, God was saying what this is representing, “the atonement,” is pleasing to Me. That you were willing to give up such a high cost for Me, and the smoke would “ascend up to where God dwells in Heaven,” as it is often referred to in Hebrew. There is a layer to that translation.

The “burnt offering,” is also known as the “ascension offering.” For “who can ascend upon the hill of the Lord. He who has clean hands and a pure heart.” There is an ascension of smoke that comes. I can go up from here as I continue upward. I can continue onward. I can now go before God. In that language, if you have been listening, you probably have heard some of these terminologies or phrases in the New Testament in a different light.

The cost was to be very heavy. You were to feel the cost of the sacrifice. Over our time, now that we are after Jesus has paid that cost of sacrifice, we have cheapened what it means to sacrifice. We do not have full revelation of what that feels like in the Spirit. There are these three areas in which convenience goes against true sacrifice.

\*Convenience cheapens the sacrifice. It is not as fulfilling as it should be to the Lord.

\*Convenience also pollutes the heart of sacrifice. Not coming *to Him* in a spirit of worship.

\*Convenience reduces the sacrificial cost.

I mentioned that in the New Testament, we know that Jesus cried out in the Father's house, “You have made my place of worship a den of robbers and a thieves.” Because the duty to come and produce a sacrifice had been conveniently altered. They could “buy” the required sacrifice five minutes before you killed it. The duty of religion was given a process of convenience for a fee. You do not have to go into the hills and find and catch the turtle dove. You do not have to go and spend a week trying to catch a young pigeon. You do not have to raise up this lamb for a year. You do not have to raise up this bull for a year and make sure it is perfect. You can “buy it for a convenience fee,” before you go in to the temple. That cheapened the heart of sacrifice before God. Your heart is now far from Me. You did your religious duty. You fulfilled the sacrifice of atonement, but our hearts never met. You never looked Me in the eyes and felt the weight of your sin and what it costs you. It angered Jesus so much, He drove the entire market out.

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We come to this place where the burnt offering is not a natural thing for us to do. It is wasteful. It is excessive. It is too much worship before God. It does not help the priests. Because, if you give all of that bull, the priest gets nothing for his house.

We refer to the woman who in front of everybody at an inconvenient time, came and brought to Jesus a bottle of perfume. She didn't just dabble it on Him. She burned through it all on His feet, before supper or doing things that needed to be done. The scribes, the Pharisees, and even His own disciples were angered and called it wasteful, excessive worship. Jesus said, "No, she has the heart. She understands. She is preparing me for something. She is also giving it all away as a burnt offering or a burnt sacrifice was done. She is not going to get back the cost of sacrifice. Whatever you give to God, you do not expect anything back.

That is where the American church is falling short, because we are preaching that anything that you give to God, it will come back to you. I would say as a rebuttal that is a true Kingdom principle. But, that is not sacrifice. There is an element in the cross of, "I give it all away, and I do not expect anything back." There is an element of suffering in the Christian walk. I will give to you as a bondservant. I do not have any say on what happens next. There is an element of saying, "I am a slave to Jesus. He is the master, and I do not get to give input on where He is going." That has been lost in some ways in our culture of convenience. If He asked us to give it all up, or if I called for a fast, we would automatically think, "What is a convenient way for me to fast?" Oh, "when would it be convenient? 'It would be convenient for me to fast breakfast, because I hardly ever eat breakfast.'" I would be fulfilling my religious duty that the house is fasting, so I am fasting. But, it has cheapened the sacrifice and the weight of it.

So, now that we understand the cost of sacrifice, why would you ever pay it? What would drive you to do it? You are not going to do something that you do not think is valuable. Why would you pay that price? Why would we pay the sacrifice? Why would we ever want to pay the most costly burnt offering?

#### Ecclesiastes 6:6-7

Let me let me put this in an amplified version here. Even if a man lives 1000 years twice, even if you live 2000 years, but you have never encountered the favor of God or the goodness of God, what was the point? Do we not all go to the same place? Now remember, Ecclesiastes is before Christ, BC. There is no hope of Heaven for Solomon. When he dies, he goes the same place that a wicked person goes. He has no hope of salvation. Jesus has not come yet. So, he is saying, "If I lived for 2000 years, and I never experienced the favor and the goodness of God, what was the point? Don't I just go to the same place as the wicked one down the street? But, he recognizes that all the labor of a man is to satisfy his stomach. Yet, his soul is not satisfied. There is something that you were born for, and all mankind is striving for. It is not just to eat. Our soul is not satisfied. I need something. What does he need?

Our soul is not satisfied with material things. We long for the favor and the glory of God. Our soul is not satisfied with just eating, drinking and enjoying today. We long for favor. We long for glory. We long for recognition. We long for something more than this life. The soul is not satisfied.

#### Psalms 17:13b-15

My soul will not be satisfied unless I look like you. There is something in my heart that I have to be with God, or like God, or something in the supernatural. This is the cry of mankind's heart.

#### II Corinthians 3:18

So, those that are in Christ Jesus, they found their hope of glory. They found the hope that I know. I now have glory. But, it is not just "I found Jesus and that is it." It is, "I found Jesus, and

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now there is glory, and glory, and glory, and glory. There are echelons or levels of glory that drives the spiritual man. It drives the spiritual man. This is what I want you to write down. "We are not created for good." You might say, "Whoa, Grant." I hear it, "Well, Grant, God created the Heavens and the Earth, and He said "It was good. Man in His image was good." He placed man on the Earth. So, obviously we were created for good. No, the Earth was good. But, God created man to bring Heaven to Earth. Man was in the beginning of time with God. We were sent to the Earth as ambassadors to make a good Earth, glorious. We were sent to the Earth to make a good Earth, glorious. Think about the original intent of it. If all the Earth was good, then why would God be wanting Adam and Eve to "take dominion and multiply with the glory of the Lord," if it was already good?

Because, we were not created for good. We were created for glory. We were created for glorious, and we can fall short of the glory of God by settling for good. You can fall short of the glory of God by settling for good. We do it a lot. We just read it in Psalms 17:13b-15. "I will not be satisfied until I see your face. Until I awake one day, look in the mirror, and there is Jesus. I am not going to be satisfied. I won't settle for anything less." When you have this heart, you will pay the sacrifice. When you have this zeal. "I want to go from glory to glory. All the way."

### Hebrews 11

David had a heart of worship. Moses saw the face of God. Joshua saw the face of God. Abraham believed that there was a city that wasn't his own. It is called "faith," to believe that there is something more to this life than just what I have been living. There is something more to going to church than just sitting. There is something more to delivering the gospel than just preaching. There is something greater than this. That drive is what makes you say, "I want to pay a price. What price do I have to pay?" God says, "All of this," and you go to Jerusalem every year to pay it. They did it, because they "longed for the glory of God."

### Psalms 24:1-4

"The Earth is the Lord's, all its fullness, the world and all of us who dwell in it."

Within this whole context of creation, we continue into verse three, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?" Remember the burnt offering? "Or who may stand in His holy place?" "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully." So, you longed to stand there, you longed to go there, and you longed to know God.

### 1 Kings 19:13b,18

Remember Elijah? He went all the way to Mount Sinai from Israel to complain to God. He went all the way there. The Lord goes, "Why are you here?" Elijah says, "I alone have been worshipping you, and I have never given myself to an idol." God says, "No, I have 7000 at home that have never bowed the knee or kissed the idol of Baal." I know those who long to ascend to my heart. They might not be written about in the Bible. But, I have always had a remnant whose hearts are after Me."

### Psalms 24:3-6

So, if you want this, if you longed to stand there, and you longed to go there, if you longed to know God, you have to have "clean hands and a pure heart." Innocence in the physical, innocence in the spiritual, innocence in the flesh, and innocence in the soul. Ouch, right?

One of my favorite movies is White Christmas. In the movie Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye are in charge of a show business that is going on the road. They have a schedule of where they are going on a tour from city to city. Over Christmas, the entire show gets break, and these guys

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go to Vermont. They have this great idea to bring their entire show on a detour to Vermont. Bing Crosby calls his producer saying, "I have this great idea. We will send everybody up here to Vermont to do the show. It will be on our ticket." Danny Kaye is on the side next to the telephone and he says to Bing, "Hey, man, how much is this going to cost? This is going to be an expensive detour!" Bing Crosby finally asks the producer, "Oh, how much is this going to cost?" There is a pause, then Bing says, "Wow!" Danny Kaye really flips and says, "Whoa, how much is wow?" Bing Crosby looks at him and says, "It's a little bit between "ouch" and "boing." Danny Kaye looks at Bing Crosby and says, "Wow!" That is sacrifice. It is a little bit between, "ouch and boing," when you say "wow."

#### Psalms 24:4-5

It's going to cost me that much to do what my heart wants to do, "To have clean hands and a pure heart." It is going to take the "wow!" Not just the, "ouch or the boing." It is the wow!

Remember what Solomon said. "I could live 2000 years and never receive the blessing or the goodness of the favor of the Lord, so what was the whole point? My soul longs for something more.

#### Psalms 24:5b

Righteousness means that you are right standing. That you are clean, you are pure, and you have done what is right. There is no wrong within.

#### Psalms 24:6

If you know the struggles, the journey and the wrestling of Jacob, then you can really relate to this passage. Jacob was born a cheater, a hustler, a handler, but his struggle was, "I kept seeking, I kept struggling, and I kept trying to find God. God finally met me. I kept trying to find the face of God. God finally showed up in the night, and I looked at Him." That's the generation of those that "long to pay the price of sacrifice."

#### Hebrews 10:1

The law is the Book of Leviticus in a lot of ways, so they are saying we read Leviticus. You can feel clean. You can feel right. You can receive the blessing of God. But, it can't make you perfect. So, the soul still longs for something. It can make you feel right for a moment. It can make you feel blessed, and you can receive the goodness of God, but you can't be perfect.

#### Hebrews 10:2-3

We talked about that how the priests would be consistently, continuously, daily seeing the sin of the people before them. It was wearisome.

#### Hebrews 10:4-8

Pause, put a bookmark. You might be thinking, then "What you have told me is pointless." Because, when we read in Leviticus that God said, "When you do a burnt offering, it is a pleasing aroma before the Lord. We read in Romans 12:1, that it is an act of pleasure to, "give a pleasing sacrifice to the Lord and offer yourself as a living sacrifice." God is saying here, in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, I actually had no pleasure. God is contradicting Himself. "Sacrifices and offerings, He did not even desire, but a body you prepared for me."

We come into a very interesting thing. When Jesus came on the Earth, God did not ask Him to keep on sacrificing and offering burnt offerings. Jesus actually didn't do that, because He didn't need to. Instead, God says, "Here is a body for you, walk in it." He gave Him a body to walk in. Interesting, yes?

Hebrews 10:9

Now we come into where God is saying, "I had no pleasure, because convenience got in the way. You understood the futility of the sacrifices. The priest understands the perpetual sin that keeps happening. Everybody understands that this isn't working. It is just becoming religion. I hate religion."

1 Samuel 15:22

He is already getting to the heart of it. The heart of it is not, "I want to keep giving you a way to sacrifice. The heart of it is, I do not want you to ever have to sacrifice. I do not ever want you to have to put your hand on the innocent and slay it. I want your heart to just follow me."

You say, "Oh, I thought you wanted us to keep killing all of these animals, because that is the only way to you." He says, "No, the way to me was obedience. The first commandment was obey my words and obey my commandments." When they came out of Egypt, He did not say, "I want you to come and figure out how we are going to atone for you." He said, "I want you to obey me and it will go well with you." So, now we are understanding the heart of God is not for us to always have a sacrifice. The heart of God is for us to be so pure, that we do not need the sacrifice.

Isaiah 1:11-14

We come into something happening here. Every time that His children are coming and sacrificing and giving for sin, and sin, and sin, and burning, and burning, and burning, and it's ascending, and ascending, and ascending, to God. He says, "I am putting that burden on my Son. I am bearing it. I have more to bear, more to bear, and more to bear. He had built up that.

Then when Jesus came, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings you did not ask me to do, but to bear a body." To bear a body of flesh that was going to hold all of this on Him.

Isaiah 1:15-18

There is always a hope. He wants that cleanliness where you do not sin anymore. I am proving a point that God's whole plan was not that we would need atonement. But, He gave us atonement to recognize how much we longed to sin. He gave us the sacrifices, not as a way to purify us, but as a way to realize how much you longed to be conveniently sinning and have a way out. You do not want to actually do righteousness. You just want a convenient way to pay for the sins, that you do not want to stop doing.

Psalms 51:16-17

Alright, so now let's take a mental note. To do justice, to love, to defend the widow, to defend the poor, and to have a broken and contrite spirit. These are things that God's going to accept.

Amos 5:21-24

"Let justice run down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Micah 6:6-8

You understand the need for sacrifice, but what it had become was that was all that they were doing to worship God. All that worship was, "I am going to come on the Sabbath and pay the price for the sins that I probably committed. I will put my hand on it. I'll do the deed. But, my heart is far from me." In Isaiah, it says, "They honor me with the lips, but their hearts are far from me."

When we come here on Sundays, we have to fight this, that "I am doing my religious duty, because this is what God asks of me to do." But, if the heart of it is not there, then the next week you will come with the same heart, to the same place, with the same mindset. Versus, "I do not ever want to be in this *position* again. I want to walk in the Spirit of the Lord."

Proverbs 21:3

Now, remember, Jesus did walk justly, He did do rightly, and He did walk humbly before His God. He did not oppress the widow. He brought justice to the poor, sight to the blind, to raise those that were lost and those that were outcast. He did see those that nobody saw, and He did free those that nobody could free. He had a body prepared for Him to walk in.

We remember last week in the book of Mark, a scribe came to Jesus. Do you remember this? The scribe said to Him, "Well, teacher you have spoken the truth. For there is one God and there is no other King. We are to love Him with all our heart, with all our understanding, and with all the soul, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourself is more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." Jesus said to Him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God. Now there is a glimmer of hope, that if you can follow God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength, then you fulfill the law. If somebody could do that, it would be fulfilled. If somebody could do that, then it would never have to be done again. If somebody could pay the ultimate cost of the sacrifices, then no one would ever have to pay them again. Because, it all would be fulfilled.

Now, you see what we are talking about. Now, this is why we are talking about "the Sacrifice." God showed us the cost of sacrifice to reveal to us we just want the easy way. We want the convenient way to pay for the separateness of our sin. Jesus says, I want to actually make those that hunger for righteousness, not to just receive the blessing, not just to feel righteous, and not just to feel clean. I want to give them perfection. I want to give them perfection, immortality, eternal life, glorious power, and the eternal presence of God, so that they would never ever leave the presence of God.

Jesus didn't come to just give us another Old Testament. Jesus came to bring us a new and better Testament. With the Old you could get the blessing, the favor, and the righteousness of God. But you couldn't be perfect. In the New Testament, the "Sacrifice," has been given, so you can get the blessing, the righteousness, and the goodness of God, but also eternal immortality and perfection with never ever leaving the presence of the throne room of God and the Holy Spirit. Wow. It is a better covenant. It is a better covenant.

Remember, there was a body prepared. God didn't ask Jesus to bring sacrifices and offerings. He gave Him a body to be "the Sacrifice." He gave Him a body and said, "This is the way, walk in it."

Hebrews 10:5-9

He justifies that God never really wanted you to burn everything. He had to show you that, because that was the cost of your sin. But, for those who really wanted perfection and glory with God, and not just settling for good. He had to make a new, or a second one, so the justification isn't the heart of God. This was the requirement of God. If I can fulfill the requirement of God, then I can give His heart in the second testament.

Hebrews 10:10

That is awesome. By that we will have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ one time for all. He is the burnt offering. He is the aroma pleasing before God. He is the one who ascended. He says, "I am the way. I am the door to the Father. He who comes in, comes through me. You go through the Sacrifice of God."

John the Baptist, we read last week, when he first saw his cousin, Jesus, coming to him in the presence of the Holy Spirit, said, "Behold the Lamb of God."

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Where was Jesus killed? If you remember in Leviticus, that “A lamb had to be slaughtered on the north side of the altar,” it has been said that according to tradition, Calvary was on the north side of the temple. There Jesus was slaughtered by His own Father which is a representation of Abraham, the father who gave up his only son, the firstborn of the fruit of his body. But God said, “Do not slay him, I see your heart of worship. That is for me to do and me alone, because I made a covenant with you all the years back. The calves and the doves and the goats and the lambs were split up and there was a trail of blood. I said you do not walk through it. I will walk through it, and when I walked through it, if you sin, then I must kill myself to make a way for you to come into the blessing forever.

It comes all the way *back* to this one moment when His son walks on the Earth. He said, “It is not about sacrifices and offerings. It is not about your religious duty. It is about love. Love Me with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Here is the body to walk in it with. Go, Son, and save them all. Because He walked in that body perfectly, He had no need to put His hand on any animal. All He had to do was open His hands to the Father. God struck Him with His wrath. His own Father forsook Him for a moment to satisfy the wrath He was having for all of these years, and years, and millennia of sins that He was bearing. He said, “My soul hates this.” I hate it. In that hate, He struck His Son with it to vanquish it and finish it. Through the blood of the Sacrifice of Jesus, once for all, we have access to perfection in God. Wow. Yes.

John 3:16-17

John 15:13

Song of Solomon 8:6

If you really delve into that phrase, “a most vehement flame,” actually translates as “it's a flame of fire of Yahweh.”

Song of Solomon 8:7

We know that God bankrupted Heaven, but He didn't give it with the wealth of His house. He gave it with His future. He gave it with His own Son. He gave the life of His Inheritor so that children could have an inheritance. This is the sacrifice that God has given us, “love.” It was the fulfillment of sacrifice. If you love me, you wouldn't ever need, so the heart of sacrifice is not duty. The heart of sacrifice is not, “This is my duty to God.” The heart of sacrifice is love. True love, of giving all that I have and all that I am, for you. I do not expect anything back. It is yours, because I love you. You will do amazing things for love.

Think about this. A man will randomly drive three hours to eat supper with a girl. Convenience has no part in that. It is not convenient for a man to drive three hours to eat supper with a girl. He would only do it if it was his duty. I have to go drive three hours to meet this girl. She would say, “If you had to do it, then turn around and go back.” But, for love, that is a sacrifice worth giving. Convenience cheapens love. You are living in a culture of convenience. Be aware and be sober and look at how convenience cheapens our love and our sacrifice for Jesus. Amen.