

Friday, March 30, 2018

Thankfulness

Leviticus 7-8

If he offers it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering he is to offer cakes of bread made without yeast and mixed with oil... Leviticus 7:12

It has been said that “the Rabbis regarded the thank offering as a supreme type of sacrifice.” The reason given is that “in the Messianic era, all sacrifices will have completed their educational mission—all save the one of inculcating [infusing] the duty of gratitude.” The Pentateuch and Haftorahs: Hebrew Text English Translation and Commentary (English and Hebrew Edition)

The sacrifice of thanks, they state, is one that will continue forever. I would suppose that is correct! I will spend eternity praising my God and thanking Him for all that He has done for me—and for His creation. I will thank Him for who He is. I will thank Him for my salvation and my home that He prepared for me. I will thank Him just because. This is a voluntary offering that is being described here. It is an offering that is brought with joy and peace and gratefulness. It is a sacrifice of praise. I can be living in this type of an attitude right now. Gratitude can permeate my thoughts and my heart. It is so important that I foster this type of sacrifice in all that I do. This “offering” keeps me rooted in understanding that all I am is His, and I rejoice in the love He has for me. I am grateful.

Dear LORD, please help me to continually be offering up voluntary sacrifices of thanksgiving for Your provision. You are so generous and loving. Thank You. Amen.

March 26 - 30, 2018

Saturday, March 31, 2018

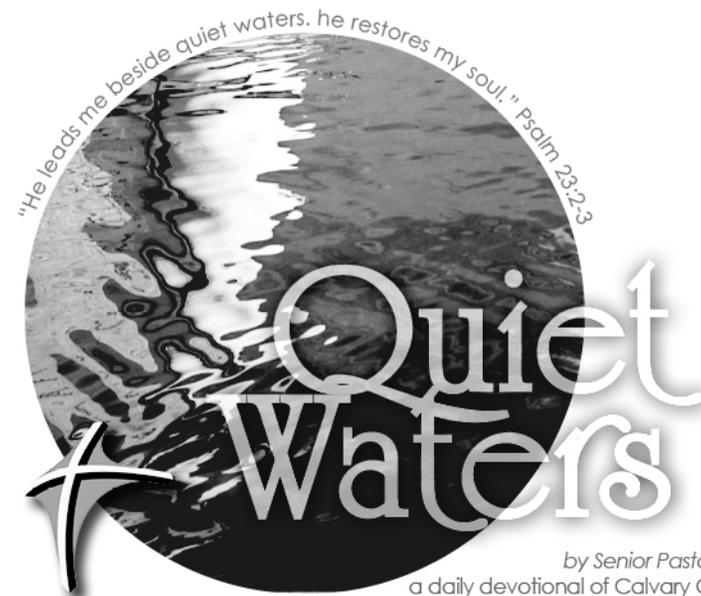
Fire

Leviticus 9-10

Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown. Leviticus 9:24

What a roller coaster of emotions in the two chapters for today. First is the unbelievable excitement of the first day of sacrifices in the Tabernacle. All that had been shared by God through Moses is now completed and it is time for the first sacrifices to be offered. If it was me who brought that very first sacrifice, my heart would be pounding out of my chest! Oh, the joy that filled them—and then the crescendo! God sends fire from His presence to let them all know that the sacrifices were pleasing. The sacrifice is taken by fire and the wrath of God is appeased. Everyone rejoiced and then fell facedown in awe. God came in splendor. Amazing! His presence brings me joy and awe. I leap for joy and fall in submission. He is the most amazing God. There is great joy in the camp. But then the joy stops. We are not told the motive of Aaron's sons, but they have not entered the presence of the LORD in the way that He has defined. They have come under their own terms. The fire comes from the presence of the LORD again—in wrath—and consumes them. Sin earns the wrath of God. *Aaron remained silent* (Leviticus 10:3b). God's righteous wrath leaves me silent.

Dear Lord, thank You for the sacrifice that averts Your wrath. Thank You for Jesus and His death, allowing me access to You on Your terms. Keep me pure for You. Amen.



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, March 26, 2018

Glory

Exodus 39-40

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Exodus 40:34-35

I love thinking about this scene that is described for us. It is terrible in a wonderful way—"terrible" meaning "extreme and formidable in nature." The terrifying cloud that covered the mountain came to cover the tabernacle. The LORD has chosen to dwell in this place that was constructed exactly as He had commanded. The glory of the LORD—the *shekinah* glory. This means "the abiding presence of God." It will remain with the Israelites until their sins against the Lord bring its departure (1 Samuel 4:21-22). This shekinah glory of God was so powerful in their midst that Moses could not even enter the tabernacle. Amazing! Awesome! The abiding presence of God. Oh, that I could discern His presence here among us today. God abides in me. His glory is in me. How am I allowing that radiance to pour out of me? His glory is in His Church (Ephesians 2:20-22). How can I be used by God to help the bride if Christ radiate His glory? Oh, that the glory of God would once again come in power to rescue His world! Begin in me, O LORD.

Sovereign Majesty, I consecrate myself to You for Your service. Cleanse me of my sin and fill me with Your presence and Your power. Abide in me as I abide in You. Come in power, Mighty God, into Your Church as it prepares itself for You. Cleanse us. Amen.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Aroma

Leviticus 1-2

He is to wash the inner parts and the legs with water and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. Leviticus 1:9

The burnt offering expressed a person's surrender to God's will. It was a self-surrender and the offering was "to the LORD" or "before the LORD." This was between the person and God. The priest was to put it all on the altar for the person. The burning of this sacrifice would be a sweet aroma to the LORD. What is it that would make the aroma so sweet? The fact that the bringing of the sacrifice was in total and was designed to serve as an opportunity to remove the sinful thoughts from the heart of the one offering the sacrifice. This was a willing self-sacrifice, which God finds pleasing—a sweet aroma. The verses that come to my mind are Romans 12:1-2, which remind me that I am to offer myself as a living sacrifice, pleasing to God. It is this type of complete sacrifice of myself that will remove the sinful thoughts from my heart as I give all I have and all I am to Him. This is such a beautiful picture of what my sacrifice can be—if it is complete and if it is given with a pure heart of submission before the Lord.

Dear God, please move in my heart to present myself as a living sacrifice to You—a complete sacrifice that will be a sweet aroma to You. I long for my heart to be free from sinful thoughts as I come and stand before You cleansed, fully submitted, and devoted. Be pleased, my Great God, with Your servant, I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Guilty

Leviticus 3-4

'If the whole Israelite community sins unintentionally and does what is forbidden in any of the LORD's commands, even though the community is unaware of the matter, they are guilty.' Leviticus 4:13

As I begin to read about the sin offering, I begin to understand the heart of God. I cannot enter into a reading of the commands given to the Levites (Leviticus) without seeing the holiness that is required by a holy God. Holiness is required. It is interesting to me that the first requirement for the sin offering (after the priest has been cleansed) is for the unintentional sins of the people. I would think that God would start with the intentional sins. In some way, those seem to me like they should get top billing. Also, it is interesting that He starts with the sins of the community, as opposed to individual sin. A sacrifice is required to cover that sin. The wages of sin is death. I can't escape that fact in Leviticus. But if I am not very careful, I can forget that nothing has changed. Death is still the penalty for sin—of which I am guilty, not only intentionally, but unintentionally. And I am part of a community that is guilty, both intentionally and unintentionally. Holiness is still the requirement and sacrificial death is still the penalty. I must remember that Jesus died once for all to take away my sin, guilt, and shame. I must remember solemnly.

Dear God, please reveal the depth of my sin and guilt so that I can live my life holy and separated unto You. Thank You, Jesus, for paying the price for my sin. Thank You. Amen.

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Worship

Leviticus 5-6

The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out. Leviticus 6:13

The continual fire on the altar was very important. According to one Hebrew commentary, it was a "witness of Israel's unremitting zeal in the service of God." The fire of the altar burned continually—it did not go out. Offerings were placed on that fire that burned. As I read these pages, I understand that this was worship. This was the way that God designed for worship to happen for His people at that time—a burning fire, offerings that came with confession and repentance, cleansing and right-standing before holy God. The fire for today in my life is the Holy Spirit. That fire is to be continually burning within me and I am not to put it out—in me or in any other believer (1 Thessalonians 5:19). The fire of God must burn in me continuously, so that I can offer myself as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him as I come into His presence with my worship. The Fire within me is a witness of my relentless zeal in the service of my King!

O Lord, keep Your fire deep in my soul, burning continuously as a reminder of my devotion to You. Let it radiate from me in a way that lets everyone know that I am an offering to You. My life is Yours. I worship You, Almighty God. There is none like You. Amen.