

Friday, March 4, 2016

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

Saturday, March 5, 2016

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


Pastor Chuck Cervenka

February 29-March 5, 2016



a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, February 29, 2016

Willing

Exodus 35-36

Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments.

Exodus 35:20-21

It's time to start the work on the Tabernacle. I can't imagine the excitement that was in the air as the nation of Israel prepared to make and build the place that God had designed and revealed to Moses. This particular chapter of Exodus always touches my heart very deeply. First, I love that in God, people are a community. God has designed us to have an impact in our world as we live with common unity. This chapter shows that the common unity of serving God brought a willingness in the hearts of people—a willingness to give generously to His work. That willingness came from hearts that were moved by God. God's love is radiated by His community responding together willingly to His movement in their hearts. I long for my heart to be constantly moved by God. I want to be one in the community in which God has placed me. I long to be part of the unity that is seen in this passage. I long for my heart to be moved and for me to be moved to give generously and regularly to the community in which God has placed me so that His name can be proclaimed and revealed as great.

Dear LORD, stir in my heart—move me to generous giving and relationship within the community in which You have placed me. Amen

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Amounts

Exodus 37-38

These are the amounts of the materials used for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which were recorded at Moses' command by the Levites under the directions of Ithamar son of Aaron, the high priest.

Exodus 38:21

The end of this chapter reviews the amounts of the items that were used for the construction of the tabernacle. The people had willingly brought even more than was needed so that they were told to stop. I have always wondered what it would be like to have been one of the Israelites who brought the spoils from Egypt—miraculously provided by God. Would I have remembered that I was just carrying them for Him, or would I have thought they were for my use and pleasure?

What was it that was used? More than a ton of gold, 3 3/4 tons of silver, and 2 1/2 tons of bronze. I just am in awe to think that slaves were given this amount of plunder. I believe that the majority of this was Egyptian gold, silver, and bronze. I consider the volume and I am amazed. And then I stop to consider all He has given me. The amount of His stuff that He has entrusted to me. All I have is plunder that has come to me through His provision. He has blessed me so richly. What have I done with what He has allowed me to steward for Him? Have I used it wisely to help build His kingdom, as He has directed? He deserves nothing less.

Dear Lord, I am amazed as I read the weights and amounts of materials that were used for Your tabernacle. Help me bring my best and use my talents for Your purpose. Amen.

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

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 which 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 the 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.

Thursday, March 3, 2016

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, and 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 and fully submitted and devoted. Be pleased, my Great God, with Your servant, I pray. Amen.