

Friday, March 11, 2016

How

Leviticus 15-16

This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area... And it was done as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 16:3a & 34b

This chapter describes how and when Aaron could come into the Most Holy Place. This was the area behind the curtain that contained the ark of the covenant. It was here that God appeared in a cloud. It was here that, once a year, the high priest could enter and offer a sacrifice of atonement for the people. It was indeed a special day that was set apart as holy to the LORD. Everyone would observe this day. It was a day that there was a provision to bring cleansing from all sin. It was a day when people would deny themselves. It was a day that God was very specific about. And Aaron was careful. The penalty for not following the command to the letter was death.

Because of the sacrifice that Jesus made, I can enter the Most Holy Place of heaven. This is the true Holy Place. It is this Holy Place that was the pattern for the Most Holy Place that was built here on earth. God sits on His throne in the Most Holy Place. I can come before Him clean because all my sins have been forgiven, since I have trusted in Jesus to be my Savior, asking for forgiveness from God through Jesus' sacrifice. Atonement is complete—once for all. I am free. I am judicially forgiven of all my sin. Even though I am declared forgiven, it is through direct confession of my sin to God that I keep my relationship pure with Him. Jesus makes that possible!

Dear God, please help me keep our relationship pure through my confession. Amen

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Worship

Leviticus 17-18

You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices.

Leviticus 18:3

The Israelites are leaving a land where it may have seemed that everything but God was worshiped and they are being brought by God into a land that also seems to be a place where everything but God is worshiped. God is making it clear that this is to be a people that is set aside as holy. The sacrifices they offer are not to gratify God. He provides the sacrifices. The blood of the sacrifices was for the spiritual welfare of the worshiper. One who worshiped God was then told not to worship any other gods. He specifically tells them not to sacrifice their children to Molech—one of the gods in the land of Canaan. God is clear. He is to be worshiped above all. He is to have priority. If I get tempted to place anything in this world—even really good things—above God, I am not worshiping Him as He has designed. I am not to follow the practices of this world. I am a child of God. I must be careful that in no way do I offer my children on the altar of a false god—the god of this age.

O Lord, keep my heart in pure worship of You. Please help me to not get distracted and start worshiping temporary things above You. I am so vulnerable in this area. Help me worship You alone. Amen


Pastor Chuck Cervenka

March 7-March 12, 2016



a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, March 7, 2016

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

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

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, the 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 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.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

To Be

Leviticus 11-12

I am the LORD who brought you out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. Leviticus 11:45

Again the Israelites are reminded of why God has rescued them. It is not directly for themselves that they have been rescued—and yet it is. God has brought them out so that He could be their God. He brought them out *to be* their God.

I become like that which I worship and I influence those around me to become like that which I worship. God rescued this group of people so that they could become like Him. By these laws and regulations, He is setting them apart. He is making them distinct. He is allowing them an opportunity to emulate Him. He is calling them to emulate His holiness. Actually, He is commanding it. In his first letter, Peter will call me to the same, restating this command. I have not been rescued from the grip of sin and Satan so that I can continue to allow that sinful pattern to be demonstrated in my life. He has brought me out of the bondage of sin and He is to be my God. I have not been saved from sin so I can sin; I have been saved from sin so that I can live choosing to live as one who is considered holy by making holy decisions. In this way, I am an example of the one true God, whom I worship, to the world.

Dear Lord, please remind me continually that You have bought me out of my sin so that You could be my God. May You always be first in my heart and mind and may my actions and choices be holy as I emulate Your holiness with my life. Amen.

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Unclean

Leviticus 13-14

“The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp. Leviticus 13:45-46

Leprosy was a terrible disease that needed to be quarantined. While many of the regulations set apart a people for God, others were meant to protect the community. It can not be overstated how important community is to God. He has not chosen an individual—He has chosen a people. Even as He works through His promises to individuals, it is for the community. To have leprosy was to be a dead man walking. It was to be the living dead. And not only was it a physical death, it was a separation from the community. This would have been devastating as well. It is hard for me to understand that, in a day of great individualism, but God’s plan for the Church is a place of community. I am part of the body of Christ. I am one member and I need all the others—and they need me! It is God’s plan. The only way that relationship with the community could be restored is if God moved in a miraculous way. It reminds me of the leper in Matthew 8 who cried out to Jesus. It is not recorded that he cried out, “Unclean!” What is recorded is that he cried out, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Dear God, please remind me that You can heal. Let me never take for granted what it means for me to live in the community of the family of God. Amen.