

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #33

Offerings with Sacrifice

[A Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:17]

I'd like to wish all hearers of God's Word a good day in the LORD—wherever you are—both physically and spiritually! I'd like to welcome you to the **#33rd Message** of this audio teaching series. Last time we made the point that while it is indeed God's grace that saves us, and it was the spilled blood and sacrificial death of Jesus which opened the door to God providing that grace. So, the question before us is: *"How do we then gain access to that grace?"* I made the intellectual point that were it only the death of Jesus which brought us to Heaven, then there would be no point in having church, disciples, or even the Bible, because every person would then be going. But the Scriptures are crystal clear—not every person is going to Heaven, despite it being God's Will that none of us should perish. We seem to have a dilemma. The definition of the word **dilemma** is **'the introduction of a problem which involves the making of a difficult choice.'** The dictionary is such a powerful tool when it comes to making the meaning of words evident.

[B No Dilemma is Still a Problem 1:17 thru 2:16]

What is distressing or painful about a dilemma is having to make a choice one does not want to make. So, in our case, we know that salvation flows through Jesus alone. There is no other way to God the Father. Period. End of discussion. On the other hand, we also know that not everyone goes to heaven. So, the uncomfortable part for the modern-day Christian is "There must be something else required." Because as I've highlighted in these audio sermons, there are too many examples of those who will be sent to the Lake of Fire. Even those who preached, cast out demons and even performed miracles in the very name of Jesus. So, what if I told you there was no dilemma here at all? As I was alluding to in the last message, the answer is found in the Temple Sacrifice.

[C New Birth Comes from Intimacy 2:16 thru 4:01]

The **OT** was a document God produced for every believer, but it was directed primarily towards the **Hebrew** people. It was written by **Hebrews**, recorded primarily in the **Hebrew** language and dictated how the **Hebrew** people were to live. God knew that the Hebrews were going to reject the Messiah, and so Jesus wrote the **NT** for His new followers. In the same vein, the **NT** is directed toward the **Christians**. So, with that in mind, open your

Bibles to **Genesis chapter 4**. Starting in **verse 1**, it reads in the Hebrew, ¹ “*And Adam knew Eve* ² *his wife* ³ *and she conceived,* ⁴ *and bore Cain,* ⁵ *and said, ‘I have acquired a man* ⁶ *from Yahweh.’*” The Hebrew word in T-1 for **knew** is **yah-DAW** and means ‘**to have intimate familiarity.**’ The word in this case carries a sexual context because in T-3 it tells us Eve conceived. The Hebrew word used for **and she conceived** is **wat-tah-HAR** and means ‘**to become pregnant.**’ We see the result in T-4 when it tells us she bore **Cain**. The one word used for **and bore** is **wat-teh-LED**. In the context of childbirth, it means ‘**to bring forth, as in giving birth to a child.**’ The lesson to be learned here is that in order to create a new birth—signifying a new person—intimacy is required.

[**D** **Cain Brought an Offering** **4:01 thru 5:39**]

It is the same when we are born again and become a new creation. No intimacy—no new person. Remember, there are zero idle words in Scripture. **Verse 2** informs us in the Hebrew, ¹ “*And she again bore this time,* ² *his brother, Abel.* ³ *And was Abel a keeper of flocks,* ⁴ *Cain was a tiller of the ground.*” So, we learn of the first two humans born out of the womb, first **Cain**, and then **Abel**. Cain chose the profession of being a **farmer**, while his younger brother decided to become a **rancher**. I want you to take note that in the text there is no indication of one job being elevated or deemed lesser than the other. They each chose their profession. This is an important point to remember as we move forward. In **verse 3**, we read ¹ “*And it came to pass,* ² *at the end of the growing season* ³ *that brought Cain of the fruit of the ground* ⁴ *an offering to Yahweh.*” If you are looking up the verses on your own, it is unlikely that your version will read the same as mine. This is why translators, more often than not, are indolent with their work and choose not to put in the extra effort required to bring out the true meaning of the words present in the original text. As you will see, when they fail to properly do their job, they miss giving us critical information which contains important facts.

[**E** **Definition of an Offering** **5:39 thru 7:22**]

In T-1 we see just one Hebrew word, **way-HIGH** and it means exactly what we see; ‘**And it came to pass.**’ In Hebrew, this phrase is built on the root word **HIGH-yaw**, which it shares with the personal name of **God: YAW-weh**. The phrase is prophetic in the sense that nothing comes to pass apart from God’s sovereignty. He misses nothing. In T-2, most translations read **in the course**. There is also just one word in the **Hebrew** present,

and it is *miq-KETZ*. It is defined as **‘at the end of something, the conclusion, or having reached an extremity.’** This particular word is seen **23 times** in the **OT**, and is translated **‘at the end’** for 18 of those times. So, I chose to use **‘at the end’** as well. The other word which appears in **T-2** is *ya-MIM*. Most translations state, **“of time”** or **“a day,”** as in the course of time, or in the course of a day. Here it clearly indicates **‘a division of time.’** Since the words in **T-3** are discussing **fruit**, which was grown from the **ground**, we can thus safely assume this event took place **“at the end”** of a growing season, perhaps during the time of the harvest. So, following the harvest, Cain brought an offering to **Yahweh**. The word we see for **an offering** is *min-KHAH* and means **‘a gift, a tribute or a sacrificial offering.’**

[**F** **A Little Garden Variety Humor** **7:22 thru 8:37**]

Everything humanity did prior to their fall in the Garden of Eden met the definition of **free will** in the truest sense. They could literally do anything they wanted. The only rule they were given was to stay away from the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, planted in the middle of the garden. And, other than tending to the cultivated plants, and going forth and being fruitful and multiplying, there was nothing else for them to do, except enjoy themselves. They were the rulers over the planet. I can just imagine Adam and Eve lying back in the cool shade of the afternoon, looking at all the beautiful flora and fauna and reflecting on their paradise. I can hear Adam say, *“We have all this beautiful space, in this most bountiful place. We have no laundry—there’s no clothes! All we need do is tend to a few plants once in a while. We get to share intimacy whenever we want, and we get to talk to God every single day.”* He says to his incredibly beautiful wife, *“Can you believe this is our life?”* And Eve turns to him and says, *“It isn’t enough, is it?”*

[**G** **Learn to Appreciate the Struggle** **8:37 thru 10:06**]

I do hope you enjoy my infrequent attempts at a little humor. The point is man was living in a paradise, designed and built by God Almighty. They were given one easy job, had one pleasurable task to fulfill, and just one rule to follow, and yet they still didn’t appreciate their lot in life. If they had, there’s no way they would have risked losing it like they did. I think we all realize that it is in the struggle of life where we learn to appreciate the good things we receive. But, even more important than that, we need to learn to appreciate the One who’s giving them to us. After they sinned, everything drastically

changed for the worse. They were booted from the Garden and were told it would now be from the sweat of their brow by which they would make a living. No sweat meant no food, and no food meant starving, and starving meant no living. And childbirth would become difficult, both during the delivery and for the next 18 years afterwards. The easy job man had been given was now difficult, the pleasurable task now bordered on agony, and communication with God was decidedly constrained. This new life was no picknick.

[**H** It All Starts With the Firstborn 10:06 thru 11:37]

God had good reason for all the actions which He took. We don't know all the instructions God gave to men in those early days, but rest assured they were there, even if the Bible doesn't report them to us. The proof was the boys, first **Cain** and then **Abel** brought offerings to the LORD. I'm sure they were taught the purpose and manner for the presentation of offerings. They didn't know it, but God was setting up humanity even back then for the arrival of **Messiah**, the Savior of the world. Going back to **Genesis 4**, now **verse 4** we read, ¹ "And Abel he also brought [his offering] ² the firstborn of his flock and ³ of their fat." Let's stop there for a moment. While the Bible is divided into verses, we must always be vigilant to ensure we are getting our context correct. We read in **verse 3** that Cain brought his offering to the LORD, and now in **verse 4** we see Abel bringing his offering as well. In **T-2**, we see the words **of the firstborn**. There is one Hebrew word present here and it is used just this once in Scripture. It is [1] **mib-be-ko-ROT** and it means, **'the first of the birth line, and carrying a conferred status.'**

[**I** God Only Accepts Our Best 11:37 thru 13:12]

The idea of the birth order in the **OT** is important. Not only for humans, but for animals as well. The first born carried special blessings. Regarding animals, the first born of each bloodline were to be dedicated to God. Which we see is what Abel did. Look now at **T-3**. There is one Hebrew word for **and of their fat**, The word is [1] **yu-me-kheh-ve-HEN**, it also appears just this once and means **'the best, the richest, or the choicest part.'** So, **T-3** should now read, ³ "and of the choicest portion." We can now plainly see that Abel brought the worthiest component of his flock before the LORD. He met all the requirements God likely had told them what were needed for a successful offering. When we read the description of Cain's offering, there were no such words describing the fruit he brought before the LORD. Finishing up reading **verse 4** we see, ⁴ "And looked

favorably Yahweh ⁵ *upon Abel* ⁶ *and his offering.*” Just based on the definitions of the Hebrew words present in the text, we should have expected this result. Abel did what God stipulated and thus received His favor. It’s a clear lesson. And as you will soon learn, it is entirely applicable to those of us living in this modern age.

[**J** Offerings Were Voluntary 13:12 thru 14:34]

In T-4 of the verse we see but one word for **and** **looked** **favorably** **Yahweh** and it is [1] **way-YEE-sha**. Here is another word built on the root word for God, **HIGH-yaw**. Its single use in Scripture is once again important. It means **‘to gaze at with respect, to have regard for or to look upon with favor,’** and is telling us this word is always talking about **Yah-weh**. When we continue in **verse 5**, we read, ¹ *“But Cain* ² *and his offering,* ³ *God did not respect.”* The word we see in T-3 of this verse is [1] **sha-AH** and means the same thing as **way-YEE-sha** from T-4 of the previous verse, except now it takes the negative. God did not look with favor upon Cain’s sacrifice, and hence did not look favorably upon Cain. I want to reiterate that presenting an offering was voluntary. There was no requirement to bring one. But, if one did choose to bring an offering, it needed to be performed correctly in order to have it accepted. If the offering was accepted, then God’s favor would be conferred upon the one bringing it.

[**K** The First Fruits of Our Intellectual Labor 14:34 thru 16:00]

Believe me when I tell you that we have just discussed Discipleship Training on a micro scale with our conversation today. Whether you realize it or not, we have been talking solely about **followers of Christ** in this message. For those who never hear the voice of God, will never know to even bring an offering before God the Father. They have never been introduced to **Yahweh**, or His word. But, for those who have, there is still a right way to approach God. Every other attempt made will be met with rejection. When we come before God with the fruits of our intellectual labor regarding His Son, Jesus Christ, He already knows whether we have honored His Son with our best efforts, or not. For those of the spirit of Abel, who strive daily to obtain the choicest fruits of knowledge that Jesus and the Holy Spirit can teach us, God will look upon their offering with favor, He will gaze upon it with respect, and will then have regard for them. But for those who also show up daily, and go through the same motions as did Abel, but fail to bring their best intellectual effort before God they will meet the same fate as Cain. Their offering will be rejected, as

will they also be.

[**L** Sacrificial Means Something Precious 16:00 thru 17:13]

The point I want to make is serving God by getting to know His Son is entirely voluntary. God makes zero demand on folks. Agreeing to submit ourselves to the full baptism of immersion learning that comes with disciple training is entirely of our own volition. But, when we agree to join the road to holiness, we are also agreeing to meet the central tenet of bringing an acceptable offering before the LORD. That demands adherence to the idea of the offering consisting of something sacrificial. As discussed in the last message, **sacrificial** means '**contributing an offering to God Almighty involving something precious to us.**' I got to tell you, there is nothing more precious than our personal time. We all have been given the same amount in each day, 24 hours, that's 1,440 minutes. And God is not asking for your minutes when you're worn out and stressed. Nope. He wants the first or prime minutes, when you are most awake, aware and energized.

[**Z** Some Final Thoughts 17:14 thru 18:45]

So, if your study of Christ is characterized by sloth and indifference as you go through the motions—God will know it. As I have explained in **Discipleship Training 101**. We have no tests, quizzes, papers or evaluations of any kind in the course. Why? Because with Jesus doing the teaching and the Holy Spirit doing the interpretation, just as with Cain's offering, God already knew he wasn't bringing in his best effort. We already said that salvation is thru Jesus and Jesus alone. There's no debate about that. But modern Christians are missing the point that growing in Godly wisdom which results in the increase of our spiritual maturity, takes place *before* we are awarded salvation—and not just after. The value of our sacrifice of time in the proper study of God's word determines whether our offering will be accepted by God Almighty, or not. Believe it or not, we are not yet finished with this discussion, we will continue with this subject of the sacrifice in the next message. Remember, this is all of God's truth. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**