

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GIFT / Sunday, December 13, 2015

Unifying Topic: **ACCEPTABLE OFFERINGS**

I. **Give Gifts Generously** (Leviticus 22:17-20)

II. **Give Gifts Sacrificially** (Leviticus 22:21-25)

III. **Give Gifts Thoughtfully** (Leviticus 22:31-33)

The Main Thought: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Enticing ads and commercials convince people that material gifts are evidence of their love toward others. What gifts are better than those things that can be purchased? Leviticus informs God's people that the best gift one can give is obedience to God's commandments.

Lesson Aim: To explore the principles behind the specific instructions given to Israel about offering sacrifices to God.

Life Aim: To gain a better understanding of how to select offering to God that honor Him and glorify what He has done.

HISTORY:

STANDARDS FOR THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 22:1-16 God spoke to Moses (v.1). And Moses was to speak and instruct his brother Aaron, the priest, and Aaron's sons to not defile God's holy name by desecrating the people's sacred gifts. The potential cause of profaning the offerings lies in uncleanness. These gifts were to be unto God; He is Jehovah! (v.2). If any of their descendants are ceremonially unclean and come near the sacred offerings that's consecrated to the Lord, that person must be cut off from God's presence (v.3). Any seed of Aaron; no priest that's a leper, or have a running sore shall not eat of the holy things until he's clean. And whoever comes in contact with the dead, or a man who has had semen emission (v.4). Whosoever touched any creeping thing, he's made unclean, or he may have touched a person who makes him unclean for some reason (v.5), they shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he's washed his flesh with water (v.6). When the sun goes down, he shall be clean; afterward he shall eat of the holy things; because it's his food (v.7). He shall not eat any animal that dies of itself, or is torn by wild animals, for he will defile himself (v.8). Moses was to warn them that they shall follow these ordinances carefully, lest they bear the guilt for it, and thereby die for profaning it. The Lord makes them holy (v.9). No stranger shall eat of the holy sacrifices unless he's a priest; no one visiting the priest, or no hired servant, may eat this food (v.10). But if the priest buys a slave as his property with his money, he shall eat of it, and those born in his house shall eat of the food (v.11). If the priest's daughter is married to a stranger, she may not eat of the sacred offerings (v.12). But if the priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child to support her, and has returned to her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's food, but no one of the priestly family shall eat this food (v.13). And if someone should eat of the holy sacrifices unknowingly, then he shall return to the priest the amount he has used, adding twenty percent, giving it to the priest with the holy sacrifices (v.14). Thus the priests shall not profane the holy things of the children of Israel, which they offered unto the Lord (v.15). Or suffer punishment when they eat their holy sacrifices that the Lord sanctified (v.16).

LESSON:

Leviticus 22:17-20 Give Gifts Generously

22:17 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,— God continues to speak to Moses.

22:18 Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever he be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto the Lord for a burnt offering;— This was about their freewill offerings unto God. "*Freewill offerings*" are voluntary offerings. So, Moses was to tell his brother Aaron, the priest, Aaron's sons, and this time include the children of Israel—Whoever is of the house of Israel, or a stranger in Israel presenting his offering for his vows or any of their freewill offerings, which they will present to the Lord for a burnt offering...

22:19 Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats. They were to offer at their own freewill; generously, a male of any cattle, sheep or goats without blemish. This meant no blind, disabled, maimed, or mutilated animals would be accepted as their freewill offering. The gift given generously was their freewill offering.

22:20 But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. So, any animal that had a blemish would not be offered. Animals with defects are considered unholy and incomplete, and therefore not to be offered to the Holy One. Just as the priests had to be free from unclean defects as they went to the altar, so did the sacrifices they offered upon the altar had to be perfect, or the Lord wouldn't accept them.

Leviticus 22:21-25 Give Gifts Sacrificially

22:21 And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. This pertains to the peace offering. "*Peace offerings*" are animal sacrifice to thank or express love to God (Exo.20:24). The gift given sacrificially was their peace or animal sacrifice without blemish. God had to have the best; the best was perfect without blemish. Christ was without blemish, the Perfect sacrificial offering of atonement that cost Him all. Our sacrificial gift has to cost us something.

22:22 Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the Lord. This meant no blind, disabled, maimed, or mutilated animals; skin cyst or tumor; an itchy spot, or a crust over a healing wound or sore will be accepted as an offering by fire on the altar unto the Lord. None was perfect.

22:23 Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted. Now, a steer; young neutered bull or lamb that may have a longer or extra limb or even a shorter limb may be offered as a freewill offering, but it won't be accepted in fulfillment of a vow. Gentiles are symbolized by "*unclean animals*" and Israel by "*clean animals*" while the priests are symbolized by "*sacrificial animals*." One may make the offering, but it won't be accepted by God.

22:24 Ye shall not offer unto the Lord that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land. The offering of the animal as a "*peace offering*" that has injured genitals that are bruised, crushed, broken, or cut (castrated) should not be offered when in their land.

22:25 Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you. ¹Strangers were permitted to make offerings to the Lord, but they must observe the same instructions as the Israelites when they made an offering. I believe in this verse it indicates that any animal you get from foreigners are corrupt with blemishes. Therefore, they are not to be offered as food to God. One would not be familiar with the offering given. He would not possibly know whether this animal was of the quality required of God. Just because this offering was from a stranger did not eliminate the fact that, it must be the very best he had.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 26-30

22:26 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,— The Lord spoke to Moses again.

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/leviticus/52.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

22:27 When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the dam; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for an offering made by fire unto the Lord. A bullock is a castrated bull. So when a bull, sheep, or goat is brought forth as an offering, it shall be left seven days with its mother, then on the eighth day it will then be considered perfect for offering by fire unto the Lord.

22:28 And whether it be cow, or ewe, ye shall not kill it and her young both in one day. The cow (the adult female/cattle) or ewe (female sheep) and her young; the mother and her offspring shall not both be killed in the same day.

22:29 And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the Lord, offer it at your own will.

22:30 On the same day it shall be eaten up; ye shall leave none of it until the morrow: I am the Lord. When they brought a thanksgiving offering to the Lord, they were to offer it in an acceptably manner; at their own free will. And it is to be eaten on the same day it's slain. None is to be left for the next day. The sacrifice was done and followed properly, so it will be accepted.

Leviticus 22:31-33 Give Gifts Thoughtfully

22:31 Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the Lord. God, who is over all, created the commandments, and commanded Moses to tell the people to keep His commandments. The priest who has respect for his ministry, and high regard for the sacrifices of God, would only accept those animals that met God's requirements.

22:32 Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the Lord which hallow you, **22:33** That brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord. God's holy name shall not be profaned or dishonored, but it shall be holy and revered among the children of Israel, for He is the Lord who made Moses holy and brought them out of the land of Egypt to be their God. Any gift given thoughtfully was to honor God's name, for His name is holy.

SUMMARY:

²This section of Scripture deals with restrictions and *limitations* concerning sacrifices. All sacrifices, whether made by Israelites or non Israelites, must be made without blemish (vv. 17-21). Nothing but perfect sacrifices should be offered to God. The prohibition of offering deformed animals is explained in verses 22-25. Just as the priests had to be free from unclean defects as they went to the altar, so did the sacrifices they offered upon the altar had to be perfect or the Lord would not accept them. *Limitations* are also given concerning young sacrificial animals.

These are God's commandments and they must be obeyed (v. 31). This is the way that God is glorified: His name is not to be profaned, but it is to be honored (v.32). It was God who brought everyone out of Egypt to be their God (v.33).

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/leviticus-22-17/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>