

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 4, Week 1 :: **Atonement for Sin**

Treasure Story: Leviticus 16

Have you ever done something wrong and really wanted to make amends? Did it make you feel guilty or sorrowful? Sometimes it can be difficult knowing how to make it up to others when we have offended them. When we sin, however, our sin is ultimately not against others but against God. Sin is a violation of God's character that must be dealt with in order to restore our relationship with Him. The only way to deal with sin is to have it atoned for.

In Leviticus 16, God directed the people to make animal sacrifices to atone for their sin. These sacrifices were imperfect and temporary; they had to be repeated often. When the ultimate sacrifice came, Jesus Christ, His atonement was perfect and satisfied God's just wrath on sin once and for all.

Connect

"The all-seeing eye of God beheld our deplorable state; infinite pity touched the heart of the Father of mercies; and infinite wisdom laid the plan of our recovery."

- David Brainerd, *Memoirs of the Rev. David Brainerd*, pg. 13

No matter how many bulls or goats that the priests sacrificed on behalf of the people, it would never be enough. This is, in fact, one of the main lessons that the sacrificial system was intended to convey. In order for the people to know true forgiveness and atonement, they would have to have faith in the promised Deliverer who has been referenced all through the narrative of the Scriptures. This Deliverer would be both the ultimate sacrifice and the ultimate High Priest whose ministry would completely forgive sin and draw us back into God's presence. Here are a few thoughts on how to properly respond to Christ, our perfect sacrifice:

- **A Living Sacrifice:** We cannot atone for our sin. Only Jesus can do that. We can, however, offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2) to obey all that the Lord has commanded us to do. One way to be a living sacrifice is to recognize that the time, talents and treasure (money) you have been given are not yours and should not be spent on whatever you want. They are the Lord's—for Him to do with what He wills.
- **Yours and Mine:** If we are serious about being living sacrifices, then we need to quit dividing what we have between us and the Lord. We need to fight against the concept of this is mine and that is God's. It is a very subtle thing to think that after you have done something for the Lord, you have paid your debt. Our debt is so big that it can never be repaid; it can only be responded to in faith and obedience. This way, we hold nothing back from God and we enjoy God in all things.

My Mission As Parent

- What genuine sacrifices have you made for the cause of Christ? How are you teaching your children to live: comfortably or sacrificially?
- What motivates your heart to sacrifice for Christ? Are you operating on guilt, or do you enjoy sacrificing because you rejoice in the great sacrifice that Jesus has made on your behalf?

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Lord to stir up your affections for Jesus.
- Ask the Lord to help you remember that all that you are and all that you have are His. Also ask Him to help you see that no sacrifice is too big to pay for obeying Him.
- Pray with your children and ask the Lord to help all of you to live sacrificially instead of comfortably. Ask for His help to remember that Christ is the ultimate model for sacrifice.

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