

“ONLY JESUS” - A Holy Week Series

The Only Sacrifice (Good Friday)

Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

I. The **PRACTICE** of Jewish Sacrifice. (v.1-4)

II. The **PROPHECY** of Jesus' Sacrifice. (v.5-10)

III. The **PREEMINENCE** of Jesus' Sacrifice. (v.11-18)

I. The **PRACTICE** of Jewish Sacrifice. (v.1-4)

"For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

4 Reasons Why the OT Sacrifices are INFERIOR and INSUFFICIENT:

- **"..a shadow.."** - Now, a shadow isn't a bad thing. Sometimes a shadow can tell you a lot. But the shadow is not the substance. The writer is stating that the Old Covenant and its Law were not themselves bad or evil, they are only incomplete and insufficient to bring total cleansing from sin, and to save. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were only a picture of things to come - Jesus Christ!!
 - **Col 2:17 AMP** - "Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ."
- **"..they offer continually...ceased to be offered?"** - The repetition of the OT sacrifice shows their inherent weakness. If animal sacrifices had "fixed" the sin problem, then they could have ceased to be offered. But they weren't....year after year after year, they had to slaughter countless sheep, innumerable goats, and multitudes of bulls for the sins of the people.
 - **During the time of Jesus Christ in the 1st century, the Jewish historian Josephus tells us that they killed 256,000 lambs during just ONE of the Jewish festivals - Passover. Think of all the blood, all the internal organs, all the carcasses of 256,000 dead sheep... incredible!**
- **"..a reminder of sins every year.."** - Every repeated sacrifice was a reminder of sins. It brought the consciousness of sins to the people again and again. The animal sacrifices didn't REMOVE sin, rather they REMINDED of sin.
- **"..not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."** - Animal sacrifice under the Old Covenant could cover sin. The Hebrew word for atonement is "kophar", which literally means, "to cover." But animal sacrifice could never take away sins.
 - There is an expression in the English language that says "Sweep it under the rug."

II. The **PROPHECY** of Jesus' Sacrifice. (v.5-10)

"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.' " 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may

establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- **"In the volume of the book it is written of Me.."** - Unbeknowst to most people, Jesus says here thru the mouth of the prophet, that the entire Bible speaks of Him. That Jesus Christ is the major focus, and the central subject of all the Scriptures:
 - **John 5:39 NLT** - *"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to Me!"*
- **"..when He came into the world, He said...a body You have prepared for Me...To do Your will, O God."** -
 - Thru the Psalms, Jesus prophetically declared that the Father would create a human body for Him, primarily that He could then offer a perfect sacrifice under the New Covenant, by offering up His blood and body!
 - **Rev 13:8 NKJV** - *"..the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*
 - *"Make no mistake about it: Jesus could've come down from the Cross and saved Himself at any moment. It wasn't the nails that kept Him there. What kept Him there, is what placed Him there in the first place - His passion to do the will of the Father, and His great love for sinners, like you and me." -Mahaney*
 - *"Everyone else came into the world to live; Jesus came into the world to die." - Sheen*
- **"He takes away the first that He may establish the second...sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."** -
- Thru the offering of His body and blood as a sacrifice for sin, Jesus replaced the first covenant of Law, with a **New Covenant of GRACE!**
- **"The Man with the Golden Arm** - James Harrison, an Australian man born in 1936, has blood that has saved the lives of over 2 million newborn babies. His blood contains a rare antibody capable of curing Rhesus disease, a severe form of anemia affecting babies whose blood type is incompatible with that of their mother. He has donated blood over 1,000 times and has no thoughts of ever stopping." While Harrison's blood is capable of saving life, the blood of Jesus Christ is the only blood that can give forgiveness of sin, thus providing eternal life. **He only donated one time, but that was sufficient for all time.**

III. The **PREMINENCE** of Jesus' Sacrifice. (v.11-18)

"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin."

- **"..every priest stands... offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."** - The priests had to stand continually in their work. Their work continued daily and sacrifices had to be repeatedly offered. The priests could never sit down!
- **"..He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down..by one offering He has perfected forever.."** - The seated posture of Jesus is important. It shows that His work is finished. He doesn't need to stand ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices as priests under the Old Covenant had to do. Jesus still ministers in heaven – He has a ministry of intercession for His people. But that ministry flows from His completed work, so He can adopt a posture of rest – He sat down at the right hand of God.
 - *"What a glorious word! Those for whom Christ has died were perfected by his death. It does not mean that he made them perfect in characters so that they are no longer sinners, but*

that he made those for whom he died perfectly free from the guilt of sin. When Christ took their sins upon himself, sin remained no longer upon them..." - Spurgeon

- *"When Christ cried out on Calvary, "It is finished!" He meant what He said. All that men have to do now, is simply accept the work of Jesus Christ for them." - Moody*

- ***"..the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us.."*** - Not only are the father and son involved in this great redemption, but the Holy Spirit also is involved, testifying to us of the great forgiveness that is offered in the New Covenant thru Jesus Christ.
- ***"..the covenant that I will make with them ..I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.."*** - The new covenant has to do with an inner transformation. God changes the heart of man and writes His law into their hearts.
- ***"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*** - The new covenant offers complete forgiveness. The forgiveness is so complete that God can say that He doesn't even remember our sins in light of the new covenant! The Christian must endeavor to do with their sin exactly what God has done: forget about it. As well, this reminds us that the believer is in no way on probation. Before God, past sin has no bearing on God's present dealing.
- *"The Christ who died on Calvary's cross, will not have to die again for my new sins, or to offer a fresh atonement for any transgressions that I may yet commit. No; but, once for all, gathering up the whole mass of his people's sins into one colossal burden, he took it upon his shoulders, and flung the whole of it into the sepulcher wherein once he slept, and there it is buried, never to be raised again to condemn His beloved people." - Spurgeon*