

RESTORATION

PART 2

Last week, we introduced the topic of Restoration.

-It began with a prophetic word from Jeremiah 29: 10-14

-the Altar was the first thing restored.

-Sacrifices were immediately offered twice a day.

1. Why was the Altar destroyed in the first place? — — Because the people backslid and lost their holy respect for God.

2. How did they show their lack of reference for God?

“When you [priests] present the blind [animals] for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Offer such a thing [as a

**blind or lame or sick animal] to your governor [as a gift or as payment for your taxes]. Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you graciously?” says the LORD of hosts.”
Malachi 1:8 AMP**

3. They thought that they could trick God with offering what they didn't want to keep and keeping what they didn't want to give. But God will not be mocked!

**““Oh, that there were even one among you [whose duty it is to minister to Me] who would shut the gates, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar uselessly [with an empty, worthless pretense]! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from your hand.”
Malachi 1:10 AMP**

-He only recognizes real offerings and real sacrifice.

-Don't mistake God's love and faithfulness for His blessing and favor.

-God withheld His blessing of the Promised Land from Israel in the desert, while faithfully feeding, clothing, and protecting them.

4. Even in the Old Testament, offerings always about the heart of the person making the sacrifice.

“My [only] sacrifice [acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart [broken with sorrow for sin, thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise.”

Psalms 51:17 AMP

5. The Sacrifice for Sin has already been offered, Jesus, the sinless Lamb Of God. But the Altar is still burning and it's never to be empty.

“For if you choose self-sacrifice, giving up your lives for my glory, you will embark on a discovery of more and more of true life. But if you choose to keep your lives for yourselves, you will lose what you try to keep.”

Luke 9:24 TPT

“Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.”

Romans 12:1 TPT

Sacrifice means living without the lesser thing, so that I can live with something greater.

Sacrifice means giving up something temporary in return for receiving something of eternal value.

Sacrifice means letting go of my thing in order to make room for God's thing.