

THE STORY - ADVENT WEEK 3

Christ the Sacrifice

December 11, 2022

1. Introduction

a. Welcome - Guests

b. This week/Next week

i. Elder nominations in Dec

ii. Christmas Under the Lights - tonight at 6:30

c. End of Year Giving

i. This Year - Light in the Darkness

1. Reducing Food Insecurity (Purpose - making a difference)

a. Bread of Life gave out 98 Thanksgiving Bags and 125 hot meals

b. BOL so far this year:

c. FTH so far this year:

2. Improving Childhood Development (Healing - kids on track)

a. Preschool students

b. Kids ministry growth

3. Connecting People to God and Each Other (Connection)

a. Parent Connect

b. Baptisms

c. First time guests every week

d. MOPS, Better Together, Men, Women, Students, Kids, Young Adults, Seniors

ii. Next Year - A New Beginning

1. Four months of prayer, conversation & discernment

a. Church survey, focus groups, congregational meetings, key leader meetings, many conversations, etc.

2. We want to make it our mission to bring healing, connection, and purpose to people all around LKN through the love of Jesus.

- a. More healing & help for kids, students, and adults
 - b. More connection to God, family, friends & community
 - c. More opportunities for people to make a difference in the world and discover their unique purpose
 - 3. Begins January 22
- iii. Ending this year on a strong note gives us our best footing - will you be part of it? Information coming this week in the mail to help you prayerfully consider the impact you can make.
- d. Advent Series
 - i. Theme: The Story (of Jesus, of the Gospel)
 - ii. Last Two Weeks:
 - 1. Christ the Creator (Hope). We can have hope this Christmas because the one who was born is the creator of everything.
 - 2. Christ the Promise (Love). Christ showed his love for us by fulfilling God's promised blessing to people from all nations.
 - iii. Today:
 - 1. Christ the Sacrifice (Peace)
- e. What is a gift you buy every year?
 - i. Radio controlled cars
 - ii. Fruit box (Valerie and I would bond over the grapefruit)
- f. What is the most lasting gift you've received?
 - i. A gift that keeps on giving.
 - ii. I received a guitar as a kid. I still play it today.
- 2. Three ways Christ the Sacrifice is the gift that keeps on giving (from Hebrews 9-10)
 - a. **Christ's sacrifice is our ticket into the presence of God.**
 - i. Ticket seems trite, but it communicates the idea that a sacrifice is required to enter God's presence.
 - ii. Hebrews 9:7&12. The high priest entered the most holy place in the earthly tabernacle once a year with a blood sacrifice in hand. Christ entered the most holy place in the heavenly tabernacle once for all time "by his own blood."

b. Christ's sacrifice officially inaugurated a new way to peace with God.

- i. CONTEXT: Covenant ratification in the ancient near east
- ii. Hebrews 9:18. The first covenant was inaugurated with blood.
- iii. **Exodus 24:3-5.** Old Covenant ratification/inauguration (vv. 1-11)
 1. God called Moses, the priests, and elders to come to him.
 2. God gave his commands to Moses. Moses read them to the people.
 3. The people agreed to obey God's commands.
 4. Moses sent young men to make the representative sacrifice.
 - a. Burnt offerings to deal with separation from God
 - b. Peace offerings to celebrate fellowship with God
 5. Moses splattered the animal blood on the people.
 6. Moses entered God's presence with the priests and elders.
- iv. Hebrews 9:15. Christ inaugurates a new covenant because a new representative sacrifice has been made.
 1. Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to die? This is why!
- v. **Hebrews 10:16-18.** This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts. Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

c. Christ's sacrifice purifies all who claim it and draw near to God.

- i. **Hebrews 10:19-22.** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus—he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)—and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

- ii. **Hebrews 10:11-14.** Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.
- iii. In other words, Christ's sacrifice is not a gift that needs to be given every year—either because it breaks (like a remote control car) or gets consumed (like a box of fruit). It is a gift that keeps on giving.
 - 1. The priests stand ministering day after day; Christ is seated and waiting for the outworking of his sacrifice to be complete.
 - 2. The priests offer the same sacrifices year after year; Christ offered one sacrifice for sins forever.
 - 3. The earthly sacrifices can never take away sin; Christ the Sacrifice has perfected forever all who receive him.

d. STORY: The sacrificial wedding gift of earrings

3. Invitation

- a. Draw near to God. He is not far from you. Reach out to him by repenting of your self-reliance and trusting Jesus' representative death as your ticket into God's presence, as the sacrifice that begins your relationship with God, and as the guarantee that you will be purified, forgiven of all your sin.