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Ryland Walter | January 14-15, 2023 Week 2: The Story of You and God (Part 2)

Summary of chapters 1-3: God wants to "tabernacle" (dwell) with me.

CHAPTER FOUR: SATISFIED AND JUSTIFIED Exodus 27:1-8 The Bronze Altar

The altar represented the claims of a holy and righteous God who must be before He can meet with man and bless him.
"I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy." Leviticus 11:44a (NIV)
Any deviation from holiness must be punished by the person or a
Sacrifice: A voluntary surrender of something
Why did God require a blood sacrifice? Because blood represents
"For the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible." Leviticus 17:11 (NLT)
Jesus was the
"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" John 1:29 (NIV)
Jesus was the sacrificer, the sacrifice, the Priest and the High Priest
"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "By his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)
Point: Acceptance of Jesus as my substitute makes me to God

For God caused Christ, who himself knew nothing of sin, actually to be sin for our sakes, so that in Christ we might be made good with the goodness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Ph)

"Brothers! Listen! In this man Jesus, there is forgiveness for your sins! Everyone who trusts in him is freed from all guilt and declared righteous – something the Jewish law could never do."

Acts 13:38-39 (TLB)

Truth to Believe: God accepts me!

CHAPTER FIVE: CLEAN HEART, CLEAN HANDS Exodus 30:17-21 The Bronze Laver

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Through Christ, we are now and we have a
You are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God For you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:5,9 (NLT)
Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. Hebrews 8:1-2 (NLT)
Just like the priest needed only a once-for-all bath,
find the cleansing for my life in
Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17 (NIV)
f we <u>confess</u> our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Truth to Believe: God cleanses and forgives me!

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The altar represented the claims of a holy and righteous God who must be <u>satisfied</u> before He can meet with man and bless him.

"I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy." Leviticus 11:44a (NIV)

Any deviation from holiness must be punished by the person or a <u>substitute</u>

Sacrifice: A voluntary surrender of something <u>valuable</u>

Why did God require a blood sacrifice?

Because blood represents <u>life</u>

"For the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible."

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Hebrews 8:1-2 (NLT)

Just like the priest needed only a once-for-all bath, so do I.

I find the cleansing for my life in The Word of God

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17 (NIV)

If we <u>confess</u> our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

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THE STORY OF YOU AND GOD (PART 2) Talk-it-Over Notes | January 14-15, 2023

REVIEW IT

As we enter the tabernacle, designed by God himself, we first see the bronze altar, with smoke rising to God from the sacrifices made by the priests for the people. Our unholiness keeping us from the presence of Almighty God. Yet the sacrifices make atonement for us, granting us all access to God. Then we see the bronze laver where the priest washed his hands after the offering of the sacrifice. Without the blood of the sacrifice we have no access to God. Today we claim the blood of Jesus Christ as the sacrificial offering for our sins. Thus we enter into the priesthood of believers and can go directly to our high priest, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us.

TALK ABOUT IT

- 1. "I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy." Leviticus 11:44a. (NIV) In this verse God commands holiness. Why? Do you think it's difficult for us to relate to the concept of holiness?
- 2. The altar represented the claims of a holy and righteous God which must be satisfied before he can meet with mankind and bless him. Any deviation from perfection requires the sinner's death or that of a substitute. What was the purpose of a blood sacrifice? What more do you think could be given than blood as a sacrifice?
- 3. The laver was a bronze bowl positioned halfway between the altar and the Holy Place. Priests cleansed themselves daily at the laver before serving in the Holy Place so they would be pure and not die before a holy God. The everyday application is that we should cleanse ourselves in God's word. When you look at your reflection in the Bible, what do you see?
- 4. At his death, Christ became the only high priest and we became priests. God cleansed us and forgave us. How do you feel knowing you can walk free in the knowledge that the barrier between us and God is forever gone?

ACT ON IT

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." Romans 12:1 - What can you do to offer yourself as an acceptable sacrifice to God today?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Spend some time praying for one another. Ask one another how you can pray for and support each other this week.