

Repentance: a Bloody Mess and Renewing of the Mind and Spirit

Thoughts on Lev 1 - 7 for today...

Almost every morning for breakfast I slice up fruit. Many times that fruit is strawberries and if it is the right time it is juicy and gets all over my fingers as I cut it up into smaller pieces to eat with my breakfast for the day. It's finger-licking good.

Today was one of those days and it came after reading these chapters in Leviticus. My mind connected what I was doing with the strawberries with what the Israelites did with their sacrifices. When they brought their unblemished offering of livestock, they would have to “kill the bull before the LORD” or “kill it at the door of the Tabernacle of meeting.” Goats, lambs, bulls, birds... The priests would then come after the killing to do certain things with the blood, sprinkling it here and there as the LORD commanded. Parts of the animal, head, legs, entrails, fat, kidneys, liver, dung were put on the wood and burnt up as a sweet aroma to the LORD.

In short, it was a BLOODY MESS not only for the one who brought in the sacrifice and killed it but for all the priests who had charge over it once it was killed. Blood was everywhere.

In our eyes, it must have been like a slaughterhouse out in the open in the outer court of the LORD. Not just for one single person, one animal killed, but for every male over the age of 20 this was done. It must have lasted hours, if not days to get this done. It's not quite finger-licking good like my strawberries.

Repentance is a Bloody Mess Today

Today we don't bring in different animals to sacrifice for all of the many sins we commit through ignorance, omission, commission... transgression, trespass, guilt offerings, sin offerings, grain offerings... we accept and recognize that the blood and water which Jesus shed and poured out for our sins and that of the whole world is entirely sufficient.

Yet we are required to bring a sacrifice as Jesus did...

Luk 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Meaning our wills, ourselves...

Joh 13:38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.

...our lives are no longer our own to do with as we please.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

We live our lives through these bodies and that is the sacrifice we present to the Lord each and every day.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

When we walk in love for our God and brethren, preferring them before ourselves, that in and of itself is a sacrifice.

Heb 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

We also give a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God because we recognize our salvation, healing, and deliverance is not based upon our perfect works, actions, and behaviors, but rather on His ability to remain faithful to His word, as long as we remain faithful to trusting in Him.

Rom 7:19-25 For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. (20) Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. (21) I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. (22) For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (25) I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Typology of Lazarus rising from the grave

Our ministry will look something like this.

Joh 11:43-44

(43) Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

(44) And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Renewal of the mind takes time.

(Rom 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Entrenched systems of the mind. Paradigms we have erected over the span of our life that have become bulwarks and strongholds. They are inherently resistant to change because over time these paradigms have helped us understand and cope with the fallen world we exist in. They color our perception of the world and they become what we call our worldview – the explanation of the world around us.

Renewing the mind has two distinct attributes:

1. deconstructing our self-erected paradigms of thought and...
2. reconstructing paradigms through the mind of Christ.

When an individual does that it results in what we call a Christian or Biblical worldview. This process does not happen overnight, as much as we would like it to.

In order for this process to take place the individual must be willing to discard his/her own inaccurate paradigms and submitting Himself to the work of the Spirit in his own heart.

Renewing of the mind takes effort on the part of the individual to learn new things or see things in a new perspective, Gods' perspective, and His willing submission to the Spirit.

Paradigms are recreated in two ways:

1. The Word of God
2. Spirit at work in their hearts

None of things have anything to do with us and ministers of the Lord unto them.

Act 26:16-18

(16) But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

(17) I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

(18) to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

What we need to make sure of is that we are cooperating and submitted to the leading of His Spirit as to how to minister as He desires to minister unto them. For each of us, based on our

gifts, our personalities, our temperament, it will invariably look different, but we must trust the Spirit of the Lord.

Zec 4:6

(6) So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

Renewing by the Spirit takes time.

It is completely dependent on the willingness to surrender to the Spirit at work in Him.

(Tit 3:5) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Paradigms need not be locked in place forever. Changes occur progressively over time through what a brother calls epiphanies - instantaneous moments of illumination, insight, knowing or understanding of something you didn't grasp before, "it clicked".

Spiritually we call these moments of divine revelation. God opened our eyes, ears, heart to perceive something that was actually there the whole time. These revelations occurring over time will be more likely as we faithfully, patiently, minister the Word of God in truth and in love.

There will be delays in progress and that will be more so due to the personal individual hinderances embedded in the individual – deep inner resistance to change, but let not that hinderance be due to our impatience or mode of the delivery of His word to them.

Repentance and submission are acts of self-inflicted pain. Generally our default in life is to avoid pain, especially in those areas where it hurts a great deal.

The reality is we need a constant stream of revelation in every area of our lives where our paradigms DO NOT line up with God's perspective.

(2Co 4:16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being **renewed day by day**.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of everyone's agreement:

"Every time we become aware that our perspective or our opinion or our interpretation is different from the Lords, even if only in a minor way, we must forsake ours and embrace His. This is the attitude of everyone who really wants to be His disciple."
Pastor David A. Huston