

Obedience and Sacrifice

Week 10 - The Altar (9-22-21)

Obedience = To follow the commands or guidance of, or to conform to or comply with.

Sacrifice = Destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else:

Something given up or lost.

Obedience (Hebrew) = Shmoa - Hear, listen.

I. Obedience before Sacrifice

A. The need for obedience came BEFORE the need for a sacrifice. In fact, there was never a need for a sacrifice until there was disobedience.

1. Gen. 3:1-7 & 21

a) Because Adam and Eve were disobedient, a sacrifice had to be made. There was no need for sacrifice prior to the disobedience.

B. Obedience is better than sacrifice

1. 1 Samuel 15:17-23

a) Sometimes we can make a sacrifice in disobedience!

(1) We can do all these things for the sake of the ministry of the Gospel, but what really matters is what God has asked us to do.

b) Does God delight more in our sacrifices or in our obedience to His voice?

(1) We can't Obey God until we hear Him speak.

c) Sacrifices can't change your heart. A sacrifice should be the result of a changed heart.

(1) Saul didn't really plan on sacrificing those animals to God. His heart wasn't really after God but after power and people's approval.

d) In Contrast David refused to make a sacrifice that cost him nothing.

(1) 2 Samuel 24:24 - Obedience here led David to make a sacrifice that actually cost him something.

(a) David knew that the cost of obedience was what was important, not necessarily the things that were being sacrificed.

II. Obedience = Growth

A. "Obedience at the altar is where we finally say 'yes' to Jesus." - Danny

B. If your feeling stuck... Go back to the last thing God asked you to do

1. We can't be obedient to God if we aren't hearing God.

2. Doing a bunch of "stuff" isn't what grows us spiritually, but acting in faith to only what God has asked us to do does.

C. "Obedience is an act of faith; disobedience is the result of unbelief." - Edwin Cole

1. Hearing God produces faith - Romans 10:17

a) When we act in faith, that is obedience.

b) It's impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6), and faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

2. (Gen. 22) Abraham's obedience led him to make a sacrifice, and we can see in that story that God wasn't as interested in the thing being sacrificed as He was in Abraham's willingness to obey.
 - a) Abraham's faith grew that day because he was willing to complete/perfect (James 2:22) his faith by obeying in what God was asking him to do.
- D. Proverbs 21:3 (Amp.) - "To do righteousness and justice is more accepted to the Lord than sacrifice [for wrongs repeatedly committed.]"
 1. Constantly asking God to forgive us and trying to "make it up" to Him gets us nowhere.
 - a) Remember, making sacrifices can't change your heart. Sacrifices should be the result of a changed heart.
 - b) Be obedient to what God is trying to do in your heart, and don't worry about trying to make things right. (You're not that powerful.)

III. Obedience of All Sizes

- A. Learn to hear and listen in every area of life. Big and Small
 1. 2 Corin. 10:5 - "...every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
 - a) Bring EVERY thought into the obedience of Christ.
 - (1) Our thoughts cover every area of our lives. Big and Small.
 2. We must learn to turn live in "obedience to the faith."
 - a) Romans 1:5 and Acts 6:7
 - b) Actively living in accordance to the fact that Jesus laid Himself down for the sake of us all, and that we are no longer our own but were bought with a price. We can now live under the power of the Holy Spirit instead of the lifeless efforts of our carnality.