

# The Mobile Altar

Week 3 - The Altar (8-4-21)

## I. The Altar

- A. (Hebrew) Mizbeah = from a root word that means to slaughter, kill, offer sacrifice.
- B. (Greek) Thusiasterion = A place of sacrifice, from the root word “Thusia” meaning the act of sacrifice.
- C. The altar was a place of interaction between man and God. They were places of exchange (sacrifices for peace), communication (prayer/revelation), and influence (changed by the presence and nature of God).
  1. **Before the law** and instructions for the temple were given, the altar was a response to being changed or influenced by the presence or power of God. Example - Noah after the flood, Abraham throughout his sojourning process, and when the Israelites make it across the Jordan river.
  2. **After the law** it was a fixed location where people came in order to interact with God through the priest.
  3. **Today in the new testament** our heart has literally become the altar, and we can live in constant fellowship with God wherever we go. We don’t have to wait on God to show up He is already here with us and in us. And we don’t have to go to any specific location in order to interact with God.
    - a) Jon White - “As they went...”
- D. The altar has always been about a location where connection and relationship with God is pursued, Old Testament as well as New Testament.

## II. Exchange

- A. Sacrifice (animal)/Living sacrifice (Carnality)
- B. Today we do not bring physical animal sacrifices to a physical altar in order to maintain peace. Jesus fulfilled that requirement, but we do have a place in our hearts where we come and lay things down that may be hindering our connection with God. Any part of our carnality.
  1. Jon said that the only things that we need to lay on the altar today is prayer and praise.
    - a) I’m adding our carnality
      - (1) Matthew 16:24 - “Then said Jesus unto His disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
    - b) The Altar/The Cross is still a place of death and sacrifice, but today we are the living sacrifice instead of the killing of an animal sacrifice.
      - (1) We exchange our carnality for Jesus’ Righteousness and all the benefits of being in direct connection with God through Him.
        - (a) Romans 8:7 and 12:1-2

### III. Communication

#### A. Prayer

1. In the old testament they had to make sure that they were fulfilling all of the requirements of the law for God to hear from them. Example: Proverbs 28:9 and Isaiah 59:2
  - a) Today in the new testament we can pray directly to the Father because Jesus was our sacrifice and is now serving as our high priest.
    - (1) John 16:26-27 - "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me..."
2. We can also hear directly from the Holy Spirit.
  - a) John 15:26, John 16:13, 1 John 2:20
3. Continual fellowship - The Altar also called The Lord's Table (Ezekiel 41:22 and Malachi 1:7)

### IV. Influence

#### A. Changed by the presence of God

1. The Lord's Table again
  - a) We can be continuously communing with the Father, and have constant access to His presence.
2. God's presence is powerful!
  - a) God's presence literally changes who we are.
    - (1) Abram was changed to Abraham
    - (2) Saul was changed to Paul
    - (3) we are changed from carnal and sinful to righteous children of God and are growing in the very nature of Christ
3. We can live in confidence knowing that we house and carry the very presence and favor of God with us, and that His Grace is with us wherever we go.
  - a) 2 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 10:35
4. We can live a life full of love after experiencing the true love of God in His presence at the altar.
  - a) 1 John 4:16-19

### V. Memorial

#### A. 12 Stones - Remember what God has done for you

1. The 12 stones were eventually incorporated into the breastplate of the garments of the priest as a memorial before the Lord continually. - Exodus 28:29 - "And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgement upon his heart, when he goeth into the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually."
    - a) The stones served as a reminder of God's faithfulness to His special people and what He had promised to do through Abraham.
  2. Our history is more important than we might think!
    - a) Quote from Irresistible Revolution by Lieutenant Colonel, Matthew Lohmeier
- B. We can be a walking, talking memorial and testimony of God and His love continually throughout the day!