

## THE LOCAL CHURCH

### Our Services: Offerings – How We Give

- I. **We approach the offerings with a great deal of respect – Offerings to the Lord are holy and we should show them the proper respect-***Lev22:1-CEV-The Lord told Moses 2 to say to Aaron and His sons: I am the Lord, and I demand that you honor my holy name by showing proper respect for the offerings brought to me by the people of Israel. 15 I warn you not to treat lightly the offerings that are brought by the people of Israel. 16 I am the Lord the one who makes these offerings holy.*
  - A. God's talking to the people receiving the offerings and tells them to respect these offerings
    1. God takes offerings seriously and they are important to Him-They should be important to us
    2. We shouldn't treat offerings lightly-We need to be cautious about being flippant with offerings; We're worshipping, honoring, ministering to the Lord and we need to be cautious about rushing through this
  - B. God wanted His offerings handled a certain way-*Lev22:1-AC-And the Lord said to Moses, 2 Say to Aaron and his sons that they shall stay away from the **holy things** which the Israelites dedicate to Me, that they may not profane My holy name; I am the Lord. 3 Tell them, Any one of your offspring throughout your generations who goes to the **holy things** which the Israelites dedicate to the Lord when he is unclean, that [priest] shall be cut off from my presence and excluded from the sanctuary; I am the Lord. 4 No man of the offspring of Aaron who is a leper or has a discharge shall eat of the **holy things** [the offerings and the showbread] until he is clean. And whoever touches any person or thing made unclean by contact with a corpse or a man who has had a discharge of semen, 5 Or whoever touches any dead creeping thing by which he maybe made unclean, or a man from whom he may acquire uncleanness, whatever it may be, 6 The priest who has touched any such thing shall be unclean until evening and shall not eat of the **holy things** unless he has bathed with water. 7 When the sun is down, he shall be clean, and afterward may eat of the **holy things**, for they are his food. 8 That which dies of itself or is torn by beasts he shall not eat, defiling himself with it. I am the Lord. 9 The priests therefore shall observe My ordinance, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby if they profane it. I am the Lord, Who sanctifies them. 10 No outsider [not of the family of Aaron] shall eat of the **holy thing** [which has been offered to God]; a sojourner with the priest or a hired servant shall not eat of the **holy thing**. 11 But if a priest buys a slave with his money, the slave may eat of the **holy thing**, and he also who is born in the priest's house; they may eat of his food. 12 If a priest's daughter is married to an outsider [not of the priestly tribe], she shall not eat of the offering of the **holy things**. 13 But if a priest's daughter is a widow or divorced, and has no child, and returns to her father's house as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's food; but no stranger shall eat of it. 14 And if a man eats unknowingly of the **holy thing** [which has been offered to God], then he shall add one-fifth of its value to it and repay that amount to the priest for the **holy thing**. 15 The priests shall not profane the **holy things** the Israelites offer to the Lord, 16 And so cause them [by neglect of any essential observance] to bear the iniquity when they eat their **holy things**; for I the Lord sanctify them.*
    1. Look at the spirit not the letter-You can say this is law, but don't look at the letter look at God's heart; Offerings are very important to Him and it's important to Him how offerings are treated
  - C. God called the things offered holy-He did this multiple times in Leviticus 22
    1. The things they brought to the Lord were natural things, yet He calls them holy-Bulls, goats, oxen, grain
    2. What makes it holy is that it's the Lord's portion/offering-It's holy because it's His; there's nothing sacred about the oxen, the goat-*Lev27:30-All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord-Dt26:12-When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year...13Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away **the hallowed things out of mine house**, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them. 14I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me*
    3. Carnal man gravitates towards the natural and misses the spiritual-In an offering all he sees is money and misses the reality that this is the Lord's holy offering that I worship and honor him with
    4. Distinguish what's yours and His-Don't eat His, don't consume His on yourself
- II. **God cares offerings**

A. God is interested in why you give, what you give and how you give

1. Why we give-Mt6:1-Take heed that you do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise you have no reward of your Father in Heaven. Therefore, when you do thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily, I say unto they have their reward.
2. What we give-Ma1:13-You said also, behold, what a weariness is it! And you have snuffed at it, says the Lord of hosts and you have brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus you brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand says the Lord
3. How we give-Ex35:5-And Moses spoke unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver and brass

B. God is interested in the heart-1Sm16:7-Man looks on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart; **Mt23:25**-Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for you make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. You blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also; **1Pt3:3**-Whose adorning let it not be that of outward adorning, plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price; **2Ch16:9**-For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him

C. God is interested in offerings, because the offering is a reflection of the heart

1. How much we mean to Him is seen in what He gave-His heart for us was seen in His offering-**Jn3:16**
2. Their offering (what they gave and how they gave) revealed their heart-How much does God and His offering mean to them? **Mal1:6**-O priests that despise my name. And you say wherein have we despised your name? 7 You offer polluted bread upon mine altar...And if you offer the blind for sacrifice is it not evil? And if you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?
3. Mary's offering (what she gave, how she gave) revealed her heart-**Jn12:3**-When Mary took a pound of ointment and poured it on his feed, a year's salary, did that say something about her heart?
4. Both Cain and Abel's offering said something about their heart-**Gn4:4**-Abel brought the firstlings of the flock and of the fat thereof; **Hb11:4**-Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
5. David's offering said something about His heart-**1Ch22:5**-Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

D. People want to disconnect their money from their heart, but it's scripturally impossible-Mt6:21-For where your treasure (wealth) is, there will your heart be also

1. When we find your money we find what you value, what you love, what's important to you (your heart)-What you value, what's important to you, you invest money into
2. Offerings are more about the heart, than about money-Ignorant people try to make offerings about money
3. Abel's offering revealed something about Cain's heart that He didn't want anybody to see-This is why he got so upset with Abel; This is why people squirm during offering time because hearts are being revealed
4. What you do with your money says something about your heart-You can't run from that reality; The fact that you have money for everything else, but have none for the Lord says something about your heart

E. God shows a high level of interests in offerings

1. Jesus is watching what people give in the offering-Mk12:41-Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples

and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow has cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance but she of her want did cast in all that she had even all her living.

2. God testified of Abel's offering-God talks about offerings-**Hb11:4**-By faith Able offered unto God a more excellent (greater quality, quantity, superior) sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: by it he being dead yet speaks
3. Jesus says her offering will be talked about-**Mk14:9**-Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.
4. God looks at what you do with money to find out if he should give you true riches-**Lk16:11**-If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches

F. False statements: God doesn't care about offerings and money; God doesn't care what you give as long as you give something; Give anything you can and God will accept it

### III. We give willingly – Does it matter how we give?

- A. God's big on giving willingly-**Ex35:5**-And Moses spake unto al the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver and brass
- B. An offering unwilling which shows a wrong heart-They don't want to give-**Ma1:13**-You said also, behold, what a weariness is it! And you have snuffed at it, says the Lord of hosts and you have brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus you brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand says the Lord
  1. God is interested in the heart-He's not just interested in outward show or performance
- C. The willing heart that makes the offering acceptable-**Ex25:2, 2Co9:7**-God loves a cheerful (willing, merry) giver
  1. God doesn't accept all offerings-**Ma1:10**-I have no pleasure in you neither will I accept an offering at your hand
  2. God wants you to want to-Your want to is where your heart is-**Ps40:8**-I delight to do your will, O my God
  3. A preacher who wrings and unwilling offering out of people-God gets nothing out of it-**2Cor9:5-AMP**-Not as extortion [wrong out of you] but as a generous and willing gift

### IV. We give with our hearts in our giving – Does it matter how we give?

- A. Our hearts are supposed to be engaged in our offerings-**2Cor9:8-AMP**-God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or do without) a cheerful (joyous, prompt to do it) giver [whose heart is in his giving]
- B. When you're giving an offering you're speaking, worshipping, rejoicing-Your heart is supposed to be in it, there's supposed to be some thankfulness, worship, love and acknowledgment of the goodness of God in our offerings-**Dt26:5-5**-And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father (Abraham), and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: <sup>11</sup> And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you
- C. Offerings are not supposed to be dead, dry religious rituals-A lot of our offerings haven't been worship, but rather they've been dry and religious bucket plunking; Offerings can become vain repetition

### V. We give expecting increase – The results of our offering should be our blessing and increase

- A. God connects our offerings to our increase
  1. If you honor the Lord with your substance you'll be filled with plenty-**Pr3:9**-Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and they presses shall burst out with new wine

2. If you bring your tithe, you'll experience blessing-**Mal3:10**-*Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house and prove me know herewith, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it*
  3. What we give for His sake, he says 100 fold return-**Mk10:29-30**-*There is no man that has left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive hundred fold no in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life*
- B. God instructs us to release our faith for increase when we give-We're supposed to be believing for increase-**Dt26:12**-**When thou hast made an end of tithing** *all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; <sup>13</sup>Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them. <sup>14</sup>I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me. <sup>15</sup>Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as you swore unto our fathers, a land that flows with milk and honey*
1. Releasing faith for God's blessing on your life came after your tithe and offering-You can't say Look down and bless if you don't first bring the tithe
  2. Is it selfish or unscriptural to expect on return on your giving-Where's the scripture where God says give to Him and expect nothing in return from Him; If you say you should expect no return on your giving you disagree with God because he never said that
- C. We give to be blessed-We give to invite God in to our finances
1. God is only able to keep that which you have committed unto Him (set before, present)-When I commit to following Him in my finances, then I have committed the care of my finances into His hands-**2Tm1:12**-*For which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep (care for, have eye upon, watch, protect) that which I have committed unto Him*
  2. God cannot keep what you have not committed unto Him-Any area you push God out of He will not be able to keep you in that area (EX: Schools/government want God out and He's not able to keep them)
    - a. Groundless expectation-If you're not going to follow God and do what He says in your finances then any expectation of Him to take care of you financially is a groundless expectation; You can't go your own way and then try to pray
  3. Your obedience puts you in partnership with God-Disobedience disconnects and leave you on your own
    - a. On your own-If you don't follow the Lord in your finances then you're on your own-
  4. If you will commit to following God in your finances you will prosper-If you'll believe what He says, say what He says, do what He says you will increase financially 100% of the time and you will not struggle financially
    - a. Psalm 23-If you follow Him this is where He leads you-There is no area of your life where you can follow God and continue to struggle year after year