

# Life Group Lessons for Week of 03-05-23

Sermon Title: Becoming a Burnt Offering

Passage: Leviticus 1:1-17

## Sermon Outline

The five sacrifices in Leviticus paint **pictures** that create a **pathway**.

Experiencing God's **intimate presence** requires our **total surrender**.

→ **Remember** Jesus' **sacrifice**.

→ **Relinquish** your **life**.

→ **Realign** your **thinking**.

When we offer up **our lives**, we experience **his love**.

Resources & Books for the Series:

- *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?: A Biblical Theology of the Book of Leviticus* by L. Michael Morales
- *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer
- *Secrets of the Secret Place* by Bob Sorge

## Small Group Questions

1. Ryan began the sermon noticing that there is so much blood involved in animal sacrifice. However, I wonder if the original audience would have been surprised by that? They had to deal with blood every time they ate meat. We don't have to do that very much. Without getting too graphic, has anyone dealt with slaughtering and cleaning animals before? How does that experience help you relate to all the blood and sacrifice going on in Leviticus 1?

### **Discover the Way of Jesus.**

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the scriptures that try to help us Discover the Way of Jesus in the text. And we can do this even when we are studying the Old Testament, even though at times, we will need to do some digging to discover what is different between then and now.)

2. Ryan suggested that the sacrifices in Leviticus are meant to create a pathway for us to encounter and experience God's presence in a very real way. What does that mean? Who were sacrifices for? Were they because God needed them or because

the sinful humans needed them? Why is this? How is this different from the way that other Ancient Near Eastern religions practiced sacrifice?

3. What was it about an animal sacrifice that made people able to enter into God's presence?
4. Do we still need a sacrifice to enter into God's presence? What is the sacrifice that allowed for Hebrews 4:14-16 to be true? Invite someone to read that passage and discuss.
5. Skim through John 2:13-22. What is Jesus' general attitude about the temple? Notice what happens to the curtain that separated God's presence from the people at Jesus' death (see Luke 23:44-46). What does that symbolize?

### **Nurture the Heart of Jesus**

(This is the part of the study where we start asking: "How can I learn to love the things that Jesus loved?")

6. What does the costliness of the sacrificial system suggest to you about the cost of sin in our lives?
7. Hosea 6:6, Amos 5:22-23, and Jeremiah 6:20 all suggest that God didn't want the people's sacrifices anymore. Why is that? Could it be that God never really wanted the animals to die, but he wanted something else. What did He want?
8. How would you describe the difference between proximity and intimacy? The difference between God's omnipresence and his manifest presence. Can you identify times when you have had an intimate relationship with God? What was that like?

### **Act for the sake of Others**

(This is the part of the study that we ask, "What would God want us to do because of this passage?")

9. Read Romans 12:1-2. How can we live our lives today as a living sacrifice?
10. What is it in your life that needs to be surrendered or sacrificed to Jesus today? Is it control? Is it an addiction to something or someone? Is it some kind of food or drink? And what would the Spirit want you to do with that?