

Life Group Lessons for Week of 03-19-23

Sermon Title: Marked by Praise

Passage: Leviticus 3:1-17 & 7:11-18

Sermon Outline

To experience the fullness of **God's peace**, we must offer **our praise**.

When we:

- Express **gratitude** we experience **deeper joy**.
- Acknowledge **answered prayer** we **grow in faith**.
- Host a **celebration** we proclaim **God's goodness**.

Jesus is the foundation of **our peace** and the reason for **our praise**.

Small Group Questions

1. If your house was on fire and you had 2 minutes to grab a few items, what would you grab (other than other humans and animals)? Why?
2. Were the things that you grabbed important for sentimental value? Were they items that marked a moment in your life? What was that moment?

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.)

3. What is the significance of this offering being a voluntary expression of gratitude? Is gratitude voluntary for a Christian? 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Can gratitude be compelled?
4. Consider that the setting of Jesus' first miracle in John 2 was a wedding feast. Then remember the criticism that they leveled at Jesus in Matthew 11:19. Then read Matthew 9:14-15. What does this tell us about Jesus' relationship to celebrations?

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?”)

5. What are some things that we can always be grateful for? How can we develop a heart of gratitude?
6. Think about your family, friends, kids or grandkids. What are some spiritual milestones that you might consider celebrating for others? How can you mark the moment for them?

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?”)

7. Now that we have talked about what to be grateful for and what to celebrate, try to choose at least one concrete step that can be a version of your peace offering to God for what He has done.
8. Is it time to throw a party for your group? We’re going to be taking a break from writing sermon questions after Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, so maybe that would be a good time to celebrate together!

Special Request for leaders: Please invite the members of your group to visit efcc.org/easter-serve to sign up to help us get ready to welcome people to the church on Easter.