



Unless the Lord
Builds the house,
its builders
Psalm 127:1
build in vain.

An eight week
spiritual journey
through God's Word.

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010

Word

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

Reflect

On this day we remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem for the last time before His sacrificial death. Because of His death, we can offer our lives as living sacrifices to God. Do I offer a dead or a living sacrifice to God with my life?

Pray

Lord Jesus, You gave Your entire life as a sacrifice to God on my behalf. I want to do the same for You. Renew me by Your Spirit, who alone can make this possible in my life. Amen.

Monday, March 29, 2010

Word

Such a High Priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priest, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:26-28

Reflect

On Good Friday, Jesus was sacrificed for our sins once for all. He was the great sacrifice. In Him our sins are forgiven. Does my life reflect the great gift He has given to me?

Pray

Lord, what can I say but thanks and praise to You for offering Yourself as a sacrifice for my sins? I bless Your name. Amen.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Word

But now He (Jesus, the High Priest) has appeared once for all at the end of time to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

Hebrews 9:26b-28

Reflect

Because Jesus sacrificed His life for our sins, we no longer have to sacrifice to pay for our sins. He has done it all for us so we can live a life of sacrifice in return. How am I doing so?

Pray

Jesus, thank You for paying the price for my sins. What a sacrifice You were! I can't wait for You to bring salvation to me. Amen.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Word

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest (Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool, because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:11-14

Reflect

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross on Good Friday was a one-time, all sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His sacrifice enables us to be made perfect, holy in His sight. How do I reflect this truth in my own life?

Pray

Jesus, your sacrifice paid for all my sins and made me holy in God's sight. Help me to show this by the way I live. Amen.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2010

Word

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:15-16

Reflect

Today we remember how Jesus celebrated His last supper with those closest to Him before He died. This meal is also called the Eucharist, which means “thanksgiving.” Today we praise God for this great gift and ask that it increase our faith in Him and our love for one another. Do I proclaim this in my life?

Pray

Tonight, Lord, I come into Your presence to receive Your body and blood in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of my sins. Let my life be a sacrifice of praise in response with lips that praise You and deeds that help others. Amen.

Good Friday, April 2, 2010

Word

As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

Reflect

Today we celebrate the death of Jesus as the greatest sacrifice of all. The Father allows His Son to die in our stead. Why? Jesus' death paid for all of our sins. Now we can offer our lives as spiritual sacrifices to Him. Have I given my all to Him?

Pray

Jesus, you paid the ultimate price for my sins with Your life. Help me give my life completely to You in return. Enable me to sacrifice anything I might be withholding from You. Amen.

Holy Saturday, April 3, 2010

Word

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world....This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

1 John 2:1-2 and 4:10-12

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

Word

Your boasting is no good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Reflect

Am I letting these words sink deeply into my soul?

Pray

Thank You, Father, for loving me and forgiving my sins for Jesus sake. Help me love You and others in return. Amen.

Reflect

Today we celebrate the resurrection of the Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins. We are called to keep this Festival every day. Am I committed to doing so?

Pray

Jesus, I praise and thank You for Your life, death and resurrection. Give me a special measure of Your risen Spirit so that I can live with sincerity and truth. Amen.

Monday, April 5, 2010

Word

So Jacob took an oath in the name of the fear of his father Isaac. He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives for a meal.

Genesis 31:53b-54

Reflect

As Jacob prepared to leave his uncle Laban, they worshiped together. Because Jacob recognized the blessings God gave him while working for Laban, he was moved to express his thanks to God. Do I acknowledge God's blessings in this way?

Pray

God, You have blessed my life with many wonderful gifts, both spiritual and material. Help me to live my life as a sacrifice to You and share Your blessings with others. Amen.

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Word

So Israel (Jacob) set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 46:1

Reflect

Because of a severe famine in the land, Jacob had to move his entire family into Egypt where Joseph had become "Secretary of Agriculture." As he prepared to leave, he first offered sacrifices to God. What do I do as I move into new ventures?

Pray

Jesus, Your parents took You to Egypt as a child to save Your life. You returned to give Your life as a sacrifice for our sins. Help us give our lives as sacrifices in Your service. Amen.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Word

And when your children ask, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" then tell them, "It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who Passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians."

Exodus 12:26-27

Reflect

When we celebrate Holy Communion we remember the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us. By His blood, God "passed over" our sins. Do I remember Him in every area of my life?

Pray

Father, You sacrificed Your Son on the cross for my sins. Help me give my life as a living sacrifice to You in all I think, say and do. Amen.

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Word

This is so the Israelites will bring to the Lord the sacrifices they are now making in the open fields. They must bring them to the priest, that is, to the Lord, at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and sacrifice them as fellowship offerings.

Leviticus 17:5

Reflect

God gave His chosen people very specific instructions when it came to their sacrifices. He was concerned that they not come half-heartedly and without godly intent. Is this true for me?

Pray

Lord, You have called me as Your child and challenged me to give all I am and have in Your service. Help me to sacrifice my life with a whole heart and Christ-centered intent. Amen.

Friday, April 9, 2010

Word

Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect....Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering.

Leviticus 23:18-19

Reflect

The Feast of Weeks, called Pentecost in the New Testament, was marked by many sacrifices. The chosen people of God celebrated this Feast in sacred assemblies. Do we?

Pray

Gracious God, in a couple of days I will be privileged to gather in a sacred assembly to worship You. Prepare my heart today to make it a day of sacrifice to You as well. Amen.

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Word

When you sacrifice a thank offering to the Lord, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf....I am the Lord.

Leviticus 22:29

Reflect

There were many different types of sacrifices in the Old Testament. The most important question was this "Is my sacrifice acceptable to God?" Do I consider this question in my life today?

Pray

Jesus, thank You for sacrificing Your life for my sins. Your blood is the only thing which can make my sacrifices acceptable to God. Receive my life as a thank offering to You today. Amen.

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Word

You are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put His Name there for His dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

Deuteronomy 12:6-7

Reflect

The people of God were to bring their offerings, including their sacrifices, to the temple. Where am I to bring my gifts today?

Pray

Lord, You have given me everything I own. You have called me to use all of my resources in Your service. You also challenge me to return at least a tithe to Your temple. Empower me to do Your will. Amen.

Monday, April 12, 2010

Word

Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for His Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices. Your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord. And there rejoice before the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 12:11-12a

Reflect

Why do you suppose God had to give this command more than once? I think I know. Our possessions rather than our God are too often our “prize.” What do I prize most of all?

Pray

Lord Jesus, don't give up on me and don't let me give up on myself. I want to please You. I want to serve You. Help me live a life of on-going sacrifice. Amen.

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Word

If an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw, you must not sacrifice it to the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 15:21

Reflect

God required that the first born and the best be given to Him. If I am honest with what I am trying to do for God and giving to Him, can I say, “God, this is my very best”?

Pray

Heavenly Father, You gave Your very best to me when you sent Jesus into this world to live, suffer, die and rise for me. I ask for a special measure of Your Holy Spirit so that I can give my very best to You in return. Amen.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Word

Observe the month of Abid and celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because in the month of Abid He brought you out of Egypt by night. Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the Lord will choose as a dwelling for His name.

Deuteronomy 16:1-2

Reflect

Today we remember all that God has done for us and the tremendous sacrifice that He freely offered to give us—a life of abundance and freedom. All that I have belongs to Him. What am I willing to sacrifice back to Him as an offering of thanks?

Pray

Lord Jesus, You were the Passover Lamb who was slain for our sins. Help us by the presence of Your Spirit to give our lives in sacrificial service to You and to others. Amen.

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Word

Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord...according to what was written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

Joshua 8:30-31

Reflect

When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, one of the first things they did was build an altar and offer sacrifices to God. When I enter new arenas in life, do I?

Pray

Lord, You open many doors of opportunity to me each day. Help me see what You see and do as those who have gone before me have done—begin by sacrificing my life to You. Amen.

Friday, April 16, 2010

Word

When the angel of the Lord had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, and they called that place Bokim (which means weepers). There they offered sacrifices to the Lord.

Judges 2:4-5

Reflect

It is possible to take for granted the many blessings of God and His grace. It happened to the Israelites; it happens to us. Do we weep over our failures as sincerely as they did and offer sacrifices as a sign of repentance? Do I?

Pray

Gracious God, I confess to You I have sinned. I have taken for granted Your rich blessings to me. Forgive my sins for Jesus' sake. Help me give my life in return as a sacrifice to You. Amen.

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Word

So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

1 Samuel 11:15

Reflect

Saul was the first king of Israel. His rule started on a very positive note. He and the people sacrificed and celebrated the goodness of God. Do we mark special events in our lives in the same way? Do I?

Pray

Heavenly Father, You bless my life with many special events. Help me see them as gifts of grace from You. Remind me that You have blessed me to be a greater blessing to others. Amen.

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Word

But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

Reflect

King Saul's reign started with sacrifices and celebration. It ended in disobedience and dishonor. We need to see his life as a sad example for us all. How will I be remembered?

Pray

Lord, You have crowned my life with every good thing. From the day of my baptism to the present day You have blessed and kept me. Forgive me when I have failed You in the past. Empower me to be faithful and to obey You to the very end. Amen.

Monday, April 19, 2010

Word

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived in Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me. Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

1 Samuel 16:4-5

Reflect

With King Saul's downfall due to disobedience, God sent Samuel in search of another king from among Jesse's sons. He began his search with a sacrifice. Is this how I begin?

Pray

Lord, when You open doors of opportunity for us, help us begin by thinking of You and sacrificing ourselves, our pride, our all in service to You. Amen.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Word

So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

2 Samuel 6:12b-13

Reflect

One of the first things David did as King of Israel was to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the capital city of Jerusalem. He wanted a visible symbol of God's presence in his midst. When we move into a new area or home, what is our primary focus?

Pray

God, thank You for sending Jesus, our Emmanuel. You are always with us. Help us keep You as the center of our attention whenever we move into new areas of our lives. Amen.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Word

Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

1 Kings 3:3

Reflect

King Solomon tried to follow in the footsteps of his father, King David. But early in his reign he made some serious mistakes which would cost him dearly later on. What lesson can I learn from him in this regard?

Pray

God, remind me today that it's very wrong for me to say, "I love You," and then turn around and live my life contrary to Your will. Forgive me and help me live as a person of integrity in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Word

Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord. Solomon offered a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to the Lord; twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the Lord.

1 Kings 8:62-63

Reflect

Solomon was a rich king and so he gave from his abundance. While it cost him something, he was willing to give willingly of his abundance to God. How do we give in our age of abundance and affluence? Do I really know what it means to give sacrificially?

Pray

Lord, I am overwhelmed by Your generosity. You provide me with all that I need and so much more. Help me give generously in support of Your work in the world. Amen.

Friday, April 23, 2010

Word

When the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, He commanded them: “Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arms, is the One you must worship. To Him you shall bow down and to Him offer sacrifices.

2 Kings 17:35-36

Reflect

These words were spoken to the ten tribes of Israel who fell to the Assyrian armies. They became the Samaritans. Sadly, they refused to listen to God and suffered the consequences. To whom do we offer our sacrifices? Our checkbooks provide an answer. What does mine reveal?

Pray

God, forgive me for offering too many things in my life to other gods. Help me worship and serve You only! Amen.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Word

Araunah said to David, “Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this.” But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.”

1 Chronicles 21:23-24

Reflect

When David was asked by the Lord to build an altar and sacrifice to the Lord, others sought to “pay the price.” David refused to offer anything that cost him nothing. Does our giving reflect this type of personal sacrifice? Does mine?

Pray

Lord, You are generous. Too often I am cheap. Help me to give something to You that costs me something important. Amen.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Word

So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the Lord, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

1 Chronicles 21:25-26

Reflect

Six hundred shekels of gold is no small price to pay. But David was doing something special for the Lord. And the Lord blessed him. Am I planning to do anything special for the Lord?

Pray

Lord, I sense You are seeking to do a special work in and through me. Help me wrestle with You as I determine Your will for my life. Remind me that You have blessed me to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Monday, April 26, 2010

Word

At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.

1 Chronicles 21:28

Reflect

The first thing King David did in answer to prayer was to offer a sacrifice to God. How do I respond when God answers my prayers? Does it include a sacrifice of any kind?

Pray

Lord, You give me everything I need to support this body and life day after day. Forgive me for my thanklessness and give me a heart of gratitude for each day's blessings. Amen.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Word

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

2 Chronicles 7:1

Reflect

When Solomon dedicated the great temple in Jerusalem, he began with prayer. God heard and responded to his prayers. But Solomon didn't just pray; he offered sacrifices of thanksgiving. How do I respond to God's answers to my prayers? Am I willing to offer up a sacrifice as well?

Pray

Gracious Heavenly Father, You heard our prayers for help and sacrificed Your Son on the cross for our sins. We praise You. Help me to sacrifice my life to You in return. Amen.

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Word

When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying "He is good; His love endures forever." Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord.

2 Chronicles 7:3-5

Reflect

The people of God were thankful to God for the privilege of building the temple to His glory and have His glory fill it. They paid a great price in thought, word and deed. Am I as willing to sacrifice something special for the work of God in the world today?

Pray

Lord, words can be cheap. So can deeds. Don't allow me to be a miser in word or in deed. Help me to sacrifice something special for Your cause in the world today. Amen.

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Word

(After the northern ten tribes fell into the hands of the Assyrians) those from every tribe of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the Lord, the God of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the Lord, the God of their fathers. They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam, son of Solomon three years, walking in the ways of David and Solomon during this time.

2 Chronicles 11:16-17

Reflect

Sadly, the majority of God's chosen people fell away from Him and God allowed their land to be destroyed. However, many of the priests remained faithful to God and some of the people followed them. Do I follow the right spiritual leaders today?

Pray

Jesus, You are my leader and the head of Your church. Help me to follow You and the right leaders You give to me. Amen.

Friday, April 30, 2010

Word

In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the Lord. He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him; for he thought, "Since the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me. But they were his downfall and the downfall of all Israel.

2 Chronicles 28:22-23

Reflect

It is very dangerous to follow gods that seem to promise only success and prosperity. They will lead to our downfall and the downfall of the church. Do I watch carefully which God I am following?

Pray

Lord, too often I want You to do for me what I think is best for me. Help me to pray that Your will be done in my life so that Your kingdom might come in and through me. Amen.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Word

Then (King) Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the Lord." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.

2 Chronicles 29:31

Reflect

Hezekiah was one of the few kings of the Old Testament people of God who ruled in a godly way. He reformed temple worship and restored it to its proper place. Some people followed this godly leader in sacrificing as he did. Do I seek to sacrifice as much as those who lead me in the church?

Pray

Gracious God, You provide godly leaders in Your church who seek to give their lives in sacrifice to You. Empower me by Your Spirit to give my life in sacrifice as they do. Amen.

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Word

Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

Psalms 4:5

Reflect

This psalm was written by King David for the director of music. It was to be sung with stringed instruments. Can you see how these words are an accurate reflection of David's attitude toward life? Do these words reflect the attitude of my heart and mind?

Pray

Lord, I want to trust You completely so that I will offer right sacrifices to You. Remove anything in my life which might be keeping me from trusting in You. I want to offer right sacrifices to You today. Amen.

Monday, May 3, 2010

Word

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at His tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy. I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Psalms 27:4-6

Reflect

Yesterday was Sunday, a day in which I could gather with my fellow believers and gaze on the beauty of the Lord and seek Him in His temple. Did I? Why or why not?

Pray

Lord, I want to seek You and dwell in Your house all the days of my life. Help me to do so, O most gracious God. Amen.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Word

Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.

Psalms 50:14-15

Reflect

It's one thing to make a vow or a promise; it's quite another to keep it. God has made a covenant with us in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and He asks us to covenant with Him in return. What are indicators in my life that I am keeping my vows?

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for committing Yourself to me in the sacrificial death of Jesus. Help me commit myself to You with a life of sacrifice. I can't do it without Your counsel and aid. I am calling upon You, confident that You will hear me. Amen.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Word

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Psalms 50:15-17

Reflect

Is King David suggesting that we not offer any sacrifices to God? Of course not, for he himself gave many. He is saying that the most important thing is not to go through the motions of “sacrificing” to God, but to offer our broken spirits and contrite hearts to God. Do I have my sacrifices in the right order?

Pray

Lord, accept the sacrifices of my broken spirit and contrite heart, and forgive my sins for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Word

I will sacrifice a freewill offering to You; I will praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good. For He has delivered me from all my troubles, and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

Psalms 54:6-7

Reflect

King David sacrificed freewill offerings to God because God was good to him. God delivered him repeatedly from his troubles. Am I as open to giving freewill offerings to God as David was?

Pray

O Lord, You are good. I praise Your name. You have delivered me from all my troubles. Help me to give freewill offerings as King David did. Amen.

Friday, May 7, 2010

Word

Let them (the redeemed) give thanks to the Lord for His un-failing love and His wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy.

Psalms 107:21-22

Reflect

You and I have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who was sacrificed for our sins. In Jesus we experience God’s un-failing love. Will I respond by sacrificial thank offerings and tell others of His marvelous works?

Pray

You are so loving, O gracious God. Thank You for forgiving my sins for Jesus’ sake. Help me to give You a special thank offering in response to Your great love for me. Amen.

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Word

I will sacrifice a thank offering to You and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the Lord—in Your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Psalms 116:17-19

Reflect

God’s people give offerings and call on the name of the Lord in public worship. This is a way they fulfill their vows in the presence of one another. Will I do the same tomorrow in worship?

Pray

Tomorrow is Sunday, O Lord. It is the day we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with one another and give our thank offerings to You. Help me to be present and be generous. Amen.

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Word

O Lord, I call to You; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 141:1-2

Reflect

King David serves as a wonderful model to us as one who knew how to worship, praise, pray and offer up great sacrifices. What kind of model am I to others around me?

Pray

Lord, thank You for the model David has left for us to follow. Send Your Holy Spirit to me so that I can be a positive model to others in this regard, just as Jesus also was. In His name. Amen.

Monday, May 10, 2010

Word

All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Proverbs 21:2-3

Reflect

How easy it is to live by self-deception, also in our relationship with God. God does not want us to live this way. He wants us to look at our motives as well as our actions. When God weighs my heart, what does He see? What needs to change?

Pray

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, let me be like You. Let my sacrifice be evident in all I say and do. Amen.

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Word

Guard your steps when you go to the house of the Lord. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

Ecclesiastes 5:1

Reflect

When I go to the house of the Lord on Sundays, do I go to listen or to offer the sacrifice of fools, i.e. go through the motions and hope to impress God and others? How can this verse of Scripture help me worship in spirit and in truth this Sunday?

Pray

Heavenly Father, Jesus said that those who worship You are to do so in spirit and in truth. When I go to Your house this coming Sunday, help me to listen and to offer sacrifices which are pleasing to You and helpful to others. Amen.

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Word

(When Messiah, the promised One comes)...foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to serve Him, to love the name of the Lord and to worship Him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to My covenant—these I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Isaiah 56:6-7

Reflect

Messiah has come in Jesus. What offerings am I willing to bring in response to Him?

Pray

Lord, Your house is to be a house of worship, prayer, praise and offering. Enable me to see and use it as such. Amen.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Word

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6

Reflect

God sent a powerful word of warning to His chosen people through the prophet, Hosea. He warned them repeatedly that God would judge them for their sins and He did. Do I believe God will also judge my sins when I go through the motions in my relationship with Him rather than cultivate an intimate relationship with Him that transforms my life each day?

Pray

Lord, hear my cry and plea for mercy. I have failed You so often. Forgive me and help me to change my ways. Amen.

Friday, May 14, 2010

Word

On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord Almighty.
Zechariah 14:20-21

Reflect

When Jesus came, this great prophesy from Zechariah came true. Now all things are holy to the Lord, including our money. Do I see and use money as "holy to the Lord"? What would change in my life if I saw money this way?

Pray

Lord, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift, including my resources. Help me to use them to Your glory. Amen.

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Word

"When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the Lord. "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and My name is to be feared among the nations."

Malachi 1:13b-14

Reflect

This is the last reference to sacrifice in the Old Testament and it includes a warning to us. As I prepare to worship tomorrow, what kind of sacrifice will I bring? Will it be from my best or from my worst?

Pray

Jesus, You have given Your best to me. Help me to give my best to You in return. Amen.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Word

When the time of their purification according to the law of Moses had been completed, Mary and Joseph took Him (Jesus) to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

Luke 2:22-24

Reflect

Isn't it interesting that one of the first things the Holy Family did after Jesus was born was to go to the temple and sacrifice? When God has blessed me with a special gift, what is the first thing I decide to do? Am I willing to make a sacrifice?

Pray

Lord, You fill my life with good things every day. Help me give my life as a living sacrifice to You. Remind me that it costs something to follow You, but it is always worth it! Amen.

Monday, May 17, 2010

Word

There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.

Romans 3:22b-25

Reflect

There is a price to be paid for sin. It requires a sacrifice. God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. We are declared just before God through faith in Him. He died for me. Am I as willing to live for Him?

Pray

Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. What a price You were willing to pay to bring me back to You. Help me give my life as a sacrifice in return to You. Amen.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Word

Consider the people of Israel: do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participating with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

1 Corinthians 10:18-21

Reflect

It is obviously very dangerous to claim an allegiance to Christ and then dance with the demons. Are there evidences of too many compromises in my own life?

Pray

Father, forgive me for offering my life to idols. Keep me close to You as I receive the body and blood of Your Son. Amen.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Word

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Reflect

What a challenge to imitate God. We can't do it on our own. We can only do it as forgiven children of God by faith in the sacrificed One, Jesus. How am I imitating God today?

Pray

Thank You, Jesus, for being a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Empower me to imitate You. Amen.

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Word

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you....be glad and rejoice with me (too).

Philippians 1:14-18

Reflect

Paul gave his life in sacrifice for the Philippian Christians. For whom am I sacrificing my life?

Pray

Lord, You are giving me a unique opportunity to make a sacrifice now at First Trinity. May Your Spirit help me do so. Amen.

Friday, May 21, 2010

Word

I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice to God. And my God will provide all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:18-19

Reflect

The Christians in Philippi sent Paul several monetary gifts to support him throughout his ministry. Isn't it interesting that Paul identified them as an offering and a sacrifice? Is my offering in support of God's work fragrant and acceptable or something else?

Pray

As I prepare for worship this Sunday, O God, I plan to bring You an offering. May it be a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable to You. Amen.

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Word

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 5:1-3

Reflect

The New Testament teaches us that Jesus is our high priest and that all of His followers are priests. We can offer gifts and sacrifices directly to God through Jesus. What am I offering up to God today as a gift and sacrifice?

Pray

Lord, I lift Your name on high and I offer up my life, all I am and have, in Your service as my gift and sacrifice today. Amen.

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Word

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Hebrews 11:4

Reflect

Both Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. Cain's was rejected. Abel's was accepted and long remembered. What was the difference? Abel gave a sacrifice as an act of faith. Do I?

Pray

Lord, as I consider my life each day and the "sacrifices" I believe I make for You, I ask that they be made by faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.