

**"The Practical Application"**

**Hebrews 13:1-25**

**Introduction:** As we have been studying the book of Hebrews we have learned the situation which existed with the Hebrew believers and how they were ostracized from the Jewish community for their faith in Christ. We considered how different it would have been for them to now be separated from the Temple, the ceremonies, and the sacrifices. Last week we looked at Hebrews 13:10-14 and in verse 10 the writer gives to us a glimpse into some of the antagonism which may have been directed at the Hebrew believers.

**Notice Hebrews 13:10**

The writer states that they **did have an altar** which seems to give the idea that those who were in Judaism were claiming the followers of Jesus Christ had no altar. Last week we looked at how important the altar was to the Hebrews both in the Tabernacle and in the Temple. Without the altar there was no possible way to worship God. The importance of the altar can be traced the entire way back to the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 4:1-4**

*And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*

<sup>2</sup> *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

<sup>3</sup> *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

<sup>4</sup> *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

I have underlined and bolded the word "BROUGHT" because that tells us there was a specific place where the sacrifices were brought to and that was most likely to an altar. So from the time sin entered into the world there has been a need for an altar upon which the innocent would die for the guilty. When Jesus died upon the cross He became THE SACRIFICE FOR ALL SIN and therefore the sacrifice of innocent animals was no longer needed and the Brazen Altar was no longer needed.

The writer made it very clear to his readers they **did** have an altar and those in Judaism had no RIGHT or PRIVILEGE to eat of their altar. Their altar was the cross and it was upon the cross where the GREATEST SACRIFICE of all was offered, the Lamb of God. The writer continued in his letter and pointed them to Jesus who suffered outside the gates of Jerusalem and then the writer applied this to their lives.

### **Notice Hebrews 13:11-14**

The writer called upon the Hebrew believers to break away from Judaism. Sure it would be costly and it would be difficult but so was the path which Jesus was given to walk and they were now followers of Him. They needed to understand that suffering walked along with the new life in Christ.

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Now as the writer moves on he will challenge the Hebrews. They longed to bring a sacrifice to God just because it had been a part of their lives for so long so the writer will present them with this challenge of bringing a sacrifice.

### **I. Exhortation #9 - Live for the Lord**

### **Notice Hebrews 13:15-16**

Here in these 2 verses the writer lists 3 sacrifices which the Hebrews were to offer.

1. The sacrifice of praise to God.
2. The sacrifice of doing good.
3. The sacrifice of communicating.

It is with these 3 sacrifices that God is pleased. Now these sacrifices seem so small at first glance. But upon further examination we can see that these 3 sacrifices were far more difficult to make than any other which could be mentioned by the writer. Before we look closely at these 3 sacrifices I want to show you the words of David and what it was that he said concerning his sacrifice to God.

When David was told to erect an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah, David then went to buy the floor. But Araunah wanted to give it to David as a gift.

### **2 Samuel 24:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

David would offer nothing to the Lord which would not cost him, for then it would not be a SACRIFICE. The 3 sacrifices which the writer of Hebrews mentions here in our verses would be very expensive.

**1. The sacrifice of praise.**

**Notice Hebrews 13:15 again.**

Now we can be sure that what the writer is calling for here is costly because it is called a SACRIFICE. The idea here is not standing up at a church service and giving a testimony about what we have seen the Lord do in our lives although that is honoring to God. There is no cost involved in that. This is testifying in public, out in the world, in the work place or on the street corner. To the Hebrews this would have been very costly for they were mixed in a society that was deep into Judaism. To testify about Jesus Christ would have been very costly for them. Let me show you what it would be to bring the sacrifice of praise and what it would have cost. In Acts 5 the apostles were targeted for teaching in the name of Jesus Christ. They were then taken and thrown into prison but were then released by an angel. They were then given a command by the Angel of the Lord.

**Acts 5:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> *And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.*

<sup>19</sup> *But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,*

<sup>20</sup> *Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.*

They were then taken by the officers again.

**Acts 5:26-33**

<sup>26</sup> *Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.*

<sup>27</sup> *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,*

<sup>28</sup> *Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

<sup>29</sup> *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

<sup>30</sup> *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.*

<sup>31</sup> *Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

<sup>32</sup> *And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*

<sup>33</sup> *When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.*

It was then that a doctor of the Law named Gamaliel stood up and intervened for the apostles. Those who were set on killing them listened to his words.

#### **Acts 5:40-42**

<sup>40</sup> *And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

<sup>41</sup> *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

<sup>42</sup> *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

This was the sacrifice of praise. Let me show you one more example that will be in the future.

#### **Revelation 6:9**

<sup>9</sup> *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

**Application:** This is one of the sacrifices which God desires that we offer to Him. We are to speak up for Jesus Christ in the midst of our sin cursed world. If we do not speak up then people will never hear about Jesus Christ and people will not be saved.

#### **Romans 10:17**

<sup>17</sup> *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

There are many things which we can offer to God as a sacrifice but His desire is to offer the sacrifice of praise which is the fruit of our lips.

## **2. The sacrifice of doing good to others.**

**Notice Hebrews 13:15-16 again.**

This sacrifice is to be extended to all people.

### **Galatians 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

<sup>10</sup> ***As we have therefore opportunity**, let us do good unto **all men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Now some would ask, "What does it mean to offer the sacrifice of doing good?" I believe there is one verse that will define this sacrifice very well. The definition is found in the Sermon on the Mount in the Words of Jesus Christ.

### **Matthew 7:12a**

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore **all things** whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them:*

Whatever we would desire that people do for us we are to do for them even if we know they would NEVER do what we desire. Doing good is to be unconditional. No matter how others treat us we are to do good to them when we have the opportunity to do so.

### **Mark 12:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> *And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?*

<sup>29</sup> *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:*

<sup>30</sup> *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

<sup>31</sup> And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

### 3. The sacrifice of communication.

Notice Hebrews 13:16 again.

The word "COMMUNICATE" means "TO SHARE IN DISTRIBUTION". The idea here is to share what God has blessed us with. It is to share with those who are in need. Now we know that we are to share with fellow believers who have needs.

### Romans 12:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

<sup>11</sup> Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

<sup>12</sup> Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

<sup>13</sup> Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

I do not believe that this can be limited to this idea here in Hebrews 13 however. When looking at the context and the previous 2 sacrifices I believe the idea of the writer here includes the use of our resources which we have to minister to the unsaved. We are to speak of Jesus Christ with our lips and tell of His love. We are to DO GOOD to all people and then here in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sacrifice we are to use that which we have been given by God in a way that opens doors into the lives of the unsaved.

Let me show you a few verses.

### Ephesians 5:1

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*

We are to be followers of God in all that we do.

### Matthew 5:43-46

<sup>43</sup> *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

<sup>44</sup> *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

*<sup>45</sup> That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*<sup>46</sup> For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*

God gives blessings to the evil just as He does the righteous. In Romans we see why.

**Romans 2:1-4**

*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

*<sup>2</sup> But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

*<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

*<sup>4</sup> Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

The goodness of God upon the wicked is for the purpose of leading them to repentance.

**Conclusion:**

If we are to be like our Father in Heaven then we will use the resources we have to make a way into the lives of the unsaved.

If you are wondering what you can give to God as a sacrifice there are 3 sacrifices here that are pleasing to God.

1. Praise
2. Do good
3. Share with others

Notice Hebrews 13:15

These **MUST** be offered **THROUGH** Christ. In other words these sacrifices are not to be done for self-recognition. They are to be done **ONLY** for the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ.