Leviticus 5

11-30-00

“Trespass or Guilt Offering!”

1. **Intro:**

1.1. We’ll follow the lead of the Hebrew bible which numbers ch. 5 right through to 6:7. (e.g. 6:1 = 5:20 etc.)

1.2. **Sin Offering** deals w/the fact we are sinners by nature.
   
   1.2.1. It emphasizes the sin committed.

1.3. **Trespass Offering** deals w/individual acts of sin.

   1.3.1. It emphasizes the harm done by the transgressor.

   1.3.2. We should “be honest” w/God in both “what we are” & “what we do”.

   1.3.2.1. 1 Jn.1:8,10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

1.4. The trespass offering is the Hebrew word “asham”.

   1.4.1. The word centers on guilt!

   1.4.2. Anyone who sins is a “guilty person”.

      1.4.2.1. To feel guilty, then, means to be conscious of your liability to repay.

      1.4.2.2. It is knowing you are in a state of debt.

      1.4.2.3. Financial debt today - A salesman was trying to sell a refrigerator to a housewife and said, "Lady, you can save enough on your food bill to pay for it." The housewife answered, "We're paying for a car on the carfare we save, we're paying for a washing machine on the laundry bill we save, we're paying for a television set on the cost of movies we don't see anymore. It looks as if we can't afford to save any money at this time.

      1.4.2.4. Amazing (at Guitar Center) “don't pay till spring 2002!"

      1.4.2.5. Spiritual debt today – We are in just as deep.

      1.4.2.6. Jesus said, “forgive us our debts.”

1.4.3. This moves from, the **Act** which brings guilt; to the **Condition of guilt**; to the **Act of punishment.”
1.4.4. **This section outlines** the procedure of obliterating guilt.

1.4.4.1. An animal was brought to the priest, sin was confessed & the animal was sacrificed in a specific manner. Normally restitution must be made according to cash values + 20% cash penalty.

1.4.5. The goal was atonement & forgiveness.

1.4.6. Q: What do you do with your guilt?

2. **THE TRESPASS OFFERING! (1-13)**

2.1. REFUSE TO TESTIFY! (1)

2.1.1. We can sin by “keeping quiet”.

2.1.2. How often we are guilty of this sin today! - It is the sin of not wanting to get involved! - (e.g.)”It might hurt our relationship! - They may not like me anymore! - That’s butting in! – Someone else will deal w/it!”…& the list goes on.

2.1.3. James says, “he who knows to do good & doesn't do it to him it is sin.”

2.1.4. “This also spoke of the public investigation of a crime. Qualified witnesses were asked to come forward & tell what they knew concerning the matter. A qualified witness who neglected to give his testimony was guilty of sin, & needed an atoning sacrifice.”

2.1.5. Q: Is there anything this week you are “keeping quiet”, that God is telling you to deal with, but you’re scared?

2.1.5.1. Prov.27:5 “Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.”

2.1.5.2. Lev.19:17 “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.” (note “not hate” & “rebuke” goes together)

2.1.5.3. 1 Tim.5:20 “Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.” (note, sinning is in the continual sense)

2.1.6. Q: What advice would you give your child who says, “I have a friend that I heard say they’d do something for my other friend, but is now saying they never said it?” (pretend you didn't hear it hunny?)

2.1.7. Q: Will you commit tonight to dealing with it?

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1 Charles Phiefer; pg.23 Leviticus
2.2. **ACCIDENTAL CEREMONIAL DEFILEMENT! (2,3)**

2.2.1. When such a person learns of their ceremonial uncleanness, he is expected to provide the appropriate sacrifice.

2.2.2. **We can sin & "not be aware" of it.**

2.2.2.1. **Q:** When someone brings a sin to your attention how do you respond? (Be honest!)

2.2.2.2. **Prayer** - “Oh Lord, let me be swift to **hear**, slow to **speak**, slow to **wrath**; for my wrath does not produce the righteousness of God.”

2.3. **AN OATH THOUGHTLESSLY UTTERED! (4)**

2.3.1. **We can sin by "speaking out".**

2.3.2. The **scope** of the oath, “to do evil or to do good”, implies “to do **anything**” (e.g. signifies totality)

2.3.3. Any idle oath is sinful.

2.3.4. Remember, Eccl.5:2-5 “Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words. **When you make a vow to God**, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed; Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”

2.3.5. **Q:** How many times daily do we promise someone something…& then say, “I forgot”. (Teenager & Guy syndrome)

2.4. **TWO STEPS TO RECONCILIATION! (5,6)**

2.4.1. **[1] CONFESS** (5) – This is the 1st step to forgiveness.

2.4.2. **[2] BRING HIS TRESPASS OFFERING** (6) – This is the 2nd step to forgiveness.

2.4.3. These are the prescribed steps to be taken for the specific sins mentioned in vss.1-4.

2.5. **LESS EXPENSIVE OFFERING! (7-10)**

2.5.1. This is for the individual who could not afford a sheep or goat.

2.6. **LEAST EXPENSIVE OFFERING! (11-13)**

2.6.1. **(11)** 1/10 ephah of fine flour - equivalent to 1 days food.

2.6.2. **(13)** A guarantee of forgiveness even at this level!
3. **OFFERINGS WITH RESTITUTION! (5:14-6:7)**

3.1. An Unintentional Trespass in the things of **GOD**! (5:14-19)

3.1.1. (15,16; 6:5) Involves both **Sacrifice & Restitution**.

3.1.1.1. Which reminds us that **sin harms others**.

3.1.1.2. Some say, “but I said I was sorry!” “But I repented to the Lord , isn’t that good enough?...aren’t I forgiven?”

3.1.1.3. True repentance ought to result in our making right the things we have done wrong.

3.1.1.4. One-fifth – or, 20 % or double tithe!

3.1.1.4.1. This offset any gain which the transgressor had enjoyed during his period of his possession, which wasn’t rightly his.

3.1.1.4.2. He shall bring (15) = “he shall restore” (again pointing to knowing you owe, or are in a state of debt)

3.1.1.4.3. Prov.30:10 NKJV “Do not malign a servant to his master, Lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.”- where NIV says, “Do not slander a servant to his master, or he will curse you, and you will pay for it.”

3.1.1.5. When you sinned against the **Lord** you paid it to the **priest**! When you sinned against **man** you paid it to the **injured party**!

3.1.2. (17) Spurgeon asks, “If you think you righteousness will save you if it is perfect, how can you ever be sure that it is perfect? You may have sinned ignorantly, & that will spoil it.”

3.2. An Unintentional Trespass against **MAN**! (6:1-7)

3.2.1. Sins against **man** are also against **God**, for the law of God regulates human conduct in the relationships of man to man(as well as man to God of course).

3.2.1.1. It is only a “sin” because God named it that.

3.2.2. **Wait a minute, didn’t David say**, (turn to Ps.51:4) 

3.2.2.1. “Against You, **You only**, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight;”

3.2.2.2. And this was in regards to the 2 most heinous crimes you could commit against your fellow (namely Bathsheba & Uriah)
3.2.2.3. What David does is loses sight of all else save his sin against God!

3.2.2.4. Plus it rests in God alone to grant forgiveness.

3.2.2.5. He couldn’t seek forgiveness from Uriah, now that he was dead.

3.2.2.6. Image issue also → "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

3.2.2.7. See also Ps.51:14

3.2.3. It is not enough to make amends to the individual who you hurt.

3.2.3.1. A trespass offering is still required(6)

3.2.4. So here(when it is against man) we note that Step [1] is payment of the restitution(the legal action); Step [2] is the sacrifice(the moral & spiritual action).

3.2.4.1. Both are important to God both are put together as one…are legal & moral/spiritual obligations!

3.2.5. Thoughts to chew on over pie or Holy Cow tonight: Shutting up a man in prison for his misdeeds is something unknown in the O.T. (not that it doesn’t happen, just that God doesn’t teach to do that!)

3.2.5.1. God outlined: hard work to pay back the one you wronged + 20% in payment back. And, the death penalty in some situations.

3.2.5.2. Maybe our “correctional facilities” are not so correct?

3.2.5.3. Maybe the “work along the freeways picking up trash” is more in the right direction? (I like the hand pulling of an acre of weeds, personally!)

3.3. Christ is our Trespass Offering!

3.3.1. Col.2:13 “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He(Christ) has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,”

3.3.2. Christ’s payment not only took away sin, but also covered the damage of sin!

3.3.2.1. Mt.6:12 “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”