

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.”¹**
 - 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?

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 your 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**."