

The Lamb of God

Bill Scheidler

Intro: Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:25-27, NKJV

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

We want to focus on what Jesus said by beginning with Moses (the Lamb of God in the Pentateuch)

Adam & Eve and the Coats of Skin

Read: Genesis 3:1-24, NKJV

After Adam and Eve sinned they suddenly were aware of their nakedness before God. In an effort to remedy the situation they made for themselves coverings of fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). However, God had a plan of His own to deal with their nakedness and shame (Gen. 3:21).

And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

What does God's provision for man teach us? It teaches us:

- A. That sinners need a suitable covering.
- B. That the works of our own hands are insufficient (fig leaves).
- C. That God must provide the covering (coats of skin).
- D. That our covering must be obtained through death.
 - 1. The penalty for sin must be paid (Rom. 6:23).

God's righteousness, holiness and perfect justice must be vindicated. God had said that in the day you eat of it "You shall surely die!" The wages of sin is death. Sin is transgression or the breaking of the law of God.

Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law. I John 3:4, GNB

- 2. If man is to live, there must be the death of a sinless substitute (Rom. 5:15).

Satan used an animal to lead man to death. God used an animal to cover man's sin until He brought forth the perfect, sinless man who would take away the sin of the world.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19, NKJV

3. There must be the shedding of innocent blood (Heb. 9:22).

In fact, we can say that according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified by sprinkling with blood. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22, NLT

This is the first shedding of blood in the Bible. All animal blood shed in the sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed to the blood that would be shed on Calvary for the cleansing of the sins of man.

Most likely two animals were killed, one for Adam and one for Eve.

Question: What sort of animal do you think that God killed to provide the coats of skin? A Lamb! Of course!

For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. I Corinthians 5:7b

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. I Peter 1:18-19

I believe that at this time, God also showed Adam and Eve how to offer up acceptable sacrifices to the Lord. This sacrifice was most likely patterned according to whole burnt offering that God later described under the Mosaic Covenant. In the whole burnt offering the entire animal was to be consumed but the priest ended up with the skin of the animal for his own use or clothing (Lev. 7:8).

Adam and Eve no doubt passed the idea of sacrifice on to their sons, Cain & Abel.

Cain & Abel and the Acceptable Sacrifice

Read Genesis 4:1-7, NKJV

The central truth of this chapter has to do with worship.

What does Genesis four reveal to us about worship?

A. Three foundations for worship

This story gives the foundation or basis for all future worship in both the Old and the New Testaments. It teaches us three things:

1. God is to be worshipped.
2. God is to be worshipped on the basis of sacrifice and the shedding of blood.
3. God is to be worshipped by faith, that is, according to God's prescribed order.

B. Three aspects of worship are seen in this story

1. There is a prescribed place for worship.

God had established a specific place for mankind to come for worship.

- a. God had established the Gate of Eden (Gen. 3:24).
 - This was a place designed to keep the way to the Tree of Life. Not necessarily to keep man away (although it did) but to mark the way back to the Tree of Life.
 - This was the place that had the cherubim and the flaming sword (similar to the Shekinah glory on the Ark of the Covenant). The implication is that there was a place that marked the localized "presence of the Lord" (Gen. 4:16). Omnipresence verses localized presence.

Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

- This was a place where they could commune with God (Num. 7:89; I Sam. 4:4; II Sam. 6:2; II Kgs. 19:15; I Chr. 13:6; Ps. 80:1; 99:1; Is. 37:16).

Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. Numbers 7:89

*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;
You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! Psalm 80:1*

*O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the
cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth.
You have made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16*

- This was most likely the place where they set up family altars to offer sacrifice to the Lord.
- b. Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices (Gen. 4:3-4a). There was a place to bring them.

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.

This place was destroyed with the flood of Noah. It is not difficult to see why Noah's first concern after getting off of the ark was to reestablish an altar or a place of worship (Gen. 8:20).

2. There is a prescribed time for worship (Gen. 4:3).

The phrase "in the process of time" or as the margin translates it "at the end of days" implies a set time for sacrifice. It is very likely that this was not the first time that Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord. It is very likely that this was a regular event, perhaps even a weekly event.

Albert Barnes in his commentary on this verse states, "This may denote the end of the week, of the year, or of some longer period."

3. There is a prescribed way of worship.

There is no doubt that when God provided the coats of skin for man and established the place of His presence at the gate of Eden that He also made man aware of the prescribed way in which He wanted man to approach God. This was an act of mercy and grace to provide man with a way back to fellowship with God. But if man was going to be restored back to God, he had to come on God's terms.

We know that God most likely had given instructions about worship because the Book of Hebrews reveals that Abel had offered his sacrifice

by faith (Heb. 11:4). To come by faith is to not rely on our own intellect, but to come in obedience to the word of God.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

God's way of worship was simple. Man could only present Himself before God on the basis of blood sacrifice. That is, man could only come by faith in the shed, innocent blood of another—the blood of the Lamb.

C. The two offerings of worship

1. The offering of Abel was acceptable.

It was acceptable because:

- a. He came God's prescribed way.
- b. He came through the shed blood of the Lamb.
- c. He came with the right spirit and attitude. God had respect to the offering because He had respect for the faith in the heart of the person who was making the offering. He had respect for Abel and his offering.

2. The offering of Cain was unacceptable (no visible approval from God).

- a. He came with the works of his own hands.

His offering was undoubtedly better to look at to the human eye. His offering was the fruit of his own toil, his own sweat and his own effort. His offering was the best that man could produce.

Cain's motto: "Something in my hand I bring, to my goodness I do cling."

The Bible says that all of our righteousness is as filthy rags (Is. 64:6).

- b. He came with the product of the cursed earth (Gen. 3:17, 4:2).
- c. He offered a bloodless offering to the Lord (Ex. 12:13, 23; Heb. 9:22).
- d. He came with a certain pride in his heart.

Cain was the older brother. Every time he gave an offering to the Lord he had to go to his younger brother and get a lamb. In a sense he had to humble himself before him. He began to wonder why what he had produced was not just as good as what his brother had produced (obviously not understanding what God was really after).

Question: How did God show his acceptance or approval on Abel's offering?

Most likely God showed His acceptance by fire coming forth from the flaming sword. The literal word for "respected" is to "look at with a glance" or "to kindle into a fire."

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown in his commentary on this verse states:

"The words, 'had respect to,' signify in Hebrew,--'to look at anything with a keen earnest glance,' which has been translated, 'kindle into a fire,' so that the divine approval of Abel's offering was shown in its being consumed by fire. God often manifested His approval on a sacrifice by divine fire."

Whatever the way God manifested His acceptance, Cain knew immediately whether or not God had done so.

What is my personal prayer based on the story of Cain & Abel?

I want God to approve my sacrifice as I get up on the altar. I know that I cannot stand before Him in my own righteousness; I must come on the basis of the finished work of Christ in my life. I can only stand in the righteousness that has been imputed to me by unmerited grace in God's great salvation.

Abraham & Isaac and Jehovah Jireh

Read: Gen. 22:1-2, 6-14

The sacrifice of Isaac is prophetic of Christ and His sacrifice for sin.

Jesus and Isaac are the only ones in the Bible referred to as an "only begotten son."

Isaac (Heb. 11:17-19)

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his **only begotten son**, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

Jesus (John 1:14, 18)

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has seen God at any time. The **only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

1. The sacrifice would be at God's appointed place on a mountain--Moriah (Gen. 22:2; John 19:17-18).
2. The sacrifice would be something that took place between the father and the son (Gen. 22:5-6; John 16:32).
3. The son would carry His own wood to the place of the sacrifice.
4. The sacrifice was performed by the father (Gen. 22:3 with Is. 53:10; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Rom. 8:32; I Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8).
5. The son totally yielded to the will of the father (Gen. 22:6; Is.53:7; John 14:31; Heb. 10:7-10).

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. Isaiah 53:7

6. The son freely laid his life down (John 10:17-18).

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

This is also a picture of us. We were all under the sentence of death. We are all deserving of the knife by the hand of the father, but a lamb would take our place on the altar. The lamb would be killed in our place.

7. The sacrifice of the lamb would be made in the stead of another (Gen. 22:13).

The answer to Isaac's question, "Where is the lamb?" is answered by John the Baptist, "Behold, the lamb!" (John 1:29-33).

The Trespass Offering

Read Leviticus 5:15-19, NKJV

15 "If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the LORD, then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass

offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering.

- 16 And he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.
- 17 "If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know *it*, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.
- 18 And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know *it*, and it shall be forgiven him.
- 19 It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD."

Read Leviticus 6:6-7, NKJV

- 6 And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering, to the priest.
- 7 So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses."

When John saw Jesus coming and said, "Behold the Lamb of God."

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

He was God's choice of the sinless lamb...

- who would be to us the coats of skin,
- who would be for us the acceptable sacrifice,
- who would be for us God's substitute sacrifice for us,
- who would be for us the Passover lamb delivering us from bondage to Satan,
- who would be for us the trespass offering that cleansed us from all of our sin.

Have you taken the lamb for your life? Do you have a greater appreciation for the Lamb?