

## A LIVING SACRIFICE

### LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

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Around us ... the world is carrying on as usual. But ... we know this day is an appointed time in God's calendar.

The lessons that we learn during these days should be carried on. Perhaps one of the biggest lessons we have to learn is to fully commit to live God's way. Every day!! We should give ourselves to God ... 100%!!

A LIVING SACRIFICE!!

#### Leviticus 23:1-4

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

"Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.

"These are the feasts (appointed times) of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

Not Moses days, not the Jews Holy Days ... they are God's Holy Days.

#### Leviticus 23:4-8

"These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' "

### **Exodus 12:14-18**

'So this day shall be to you a **memorial**; and you shall keep it as a **feast** to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a **feast** by an everlasting ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you.** No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day (the 15th day) throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

So. We have been putting leaven out and eating unleavened bread. We are following God's commands.

The Passover didn't change the fact that Israel was still in the place of slavery. We don't stay just where we were ... we don't stay "in Egypt" ... we have to "leave Egypt". We are to get out! The days of unleavened bread are to picture us leaving a sinful lifestyle. The lesson for us is that we have to come completely out of sin. We have to live right all of the time. Not half-hearted! Not just an image! We are supposed to be walking away towards The Promised Land. We are to "leave Egypt" completely. We are not to be lukewarm.

### **Revelation 3:14-21**

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,  
'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.** I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, **because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.** Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need

of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (Have a personal relationship with Jesus) To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

This is the Lord Jesus talking to The Church. The Lord Jesus rejects these people because they are lukewarm ... not hot, not cold. They don't live their lives completely 100% for God. They are in between ... not one thing or another. These people are complacent ... comfortable. Are they fully unleavened? The answer is No!! They are certainly not 100% dedicated to living God's way.

### **James 1:21-25**

**Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, (put off) and receive with meekness the implanted word,(put on)** which is able to save your souls.

But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a **doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

If you are not a doer of The Word ... you are deceived.

How much fruit have we produced in all of the years we have been keeping God's Holy Days? Basically ... fruit is ... the things that we say or things that we do.

### **John 15:1-8**

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

How are we doing? Is there a rich harvest of fruit? Or ... have we become complacent ... coasting along doing the minimum? What does God look for in us?

### **Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Give God 100% ... your body, your life) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, (We renew our minds feeding on God's word ... we should be totally different) that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

### **Romans 12:1 THE MESSAGE**

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

### **Romans 12:2 NLT**

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then

you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

What does God look for in a sacrifice? What quality? God gave standards!! He wants a good sacrifice.

### **Deuteronomy 17:1**

"You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the Lord your God.

### **Leviticus 22:17-22**

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings, which they offer to the Lord as a burnt offering— you shall offer of your own free will a male **without blemish** from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats. **Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer**, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the Lord, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, **it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.** Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the Lord. (DON'T DO IT!!)

God is interested in the heart ... the attitude of a person ... someone made in His image ... in His likeness.

### **Malachi 1:6-8**

"A son honours his father,  
And a servant his master.  
If then I am the Father,  
**Where is My honour?**  
And if I am a Master,  
Where is My reverence?  
Says the Lord of hosts

To you priests who despise My name.

Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'

"You offer defiled food on My altar,

But say,

'In what way have we defiled You?'

By saying,

'The table of the Lord is contemptible.'

And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice,

Is it not evil?

And when you offer the lame and sick,

Is it not evil?

Offer it then to your governor!

Would he be pleased with you?

Would he accept you favourably?"

Says the Lord of hosts.

#### **Malachi 1:12-14**

"But you profane it,

In that you say,

'The table of the Lord is defiled;

And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.'

You also say,

'Oh, what a weariness!

And you sneer at it,"

Says the Lord of hosts.

"And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;

Thus you bring an offering!

Should I accept this from your hand?"

Says the Lord.

"But cursed be the deceiver

Who has in his flock a male,

And takes a vow,

But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—

For I am a great King,"

Says the Lord of hosts,

“And My name is to be feared among the nations.

God expects a top quality sacrifice. A good attitude is a person who seeks to please God. Are we so lukewarm that we just do the minimum? Our actions give away what's in our heart. What we do can give away what's in our heart. Is God in the market for second-best? Definitely not!! God demands ... and deserves ... THE BEST!! Love God with all you've got!!

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

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

### **Luke 9:23-25**

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, (put yourself to death, crucify your lifestyle!!) and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

There are choices that we have to make ... daily!! Is the number one criteria ME? Do I ever deny myself?

### **1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

How are we doing? Do we put God in to 100% of our life? How are building on our calling? Are we hot and enthusiastic? Are we really responding to what Jesus has done for us?

### **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

### **Hebrews 5:11-14**

of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since **you have become dull of hearing.** (once upon a time ... they were "more switched on" ... now they are lukewarm!!)

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, (these people have GONE BACKWARDS --- they should have been out teaching others) **you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.** For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Where are you and I? Do we need simple teaching or have we been moving on? Are we a long, long way from Egypt by now ... or do we still have one leg stretching back into Egypt?

### **Hebrews 6:1**

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

### **1 Peter 1:13**

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, (be ready for action) be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

### **1 Peter 1:14-16**

as obedient children, **not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

Are you Holy in all your conduct ... unleavened? Leading lives based on sincerity and truth.

Don't be conformed to the world. God dwells in His people. Come out of sin and be separate from it.

### **2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1**

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God.** As God has said:

"I will dwell in them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people."

Therefore

**"Come out from among them**

**And be separate, says the Lord.**

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you,

And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the Lord Almighty.”

### **Chapter 7:1**

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,** perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### **2 Corinthians 7:1 THE MESSAGE**

With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.

### **Exodus 20:1-3**

And God spoke all these words, saying:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (The 15th day of the first month of the year)

“You shall have no other gods before Me. (God demands our complete allegiance. We love God with all of our hearts!! No one else comes before God!!)

### **2 Timothy 2:19-23**

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, **“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”** (Put on)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.** Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (Put on) But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

**Caution:** Sometimes we can have the understanding that our life is divided into 2 parts ... spiritual and secular ... God time and our time. We can think that if we are praying, if we are doing Bible study, at Sabbath services ... we are spiritual. And ... If we are just shopping, or in the office or chatting to a neighbour ... that is secular. No! If Jesus isn't Lord of all ... he isn't Lord at all!! All things should be done in a Godly way. Whatever we do ... we should do "in the name of Jesus".

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is nearly over. One lesson that we can take away is that we can offer our life as a living sacrifice. After all ... it is our reasonable service.