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Women's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1777

Men's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1822

"Greatest Sacrifice"

1. **Goal:** Quit striving for acceptance!
 - a. What does it take for you to be accepted? By the law? By God?
 - i. **Key Thought:** The law can only be satisfied by what the law requires.
 - b. What would it take to be in a right standing with God's law?

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV) "[...] without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

2. **Why did God want animal sacrifices?**
 - a. Because the animal dying symbolizes what the law requires: death.
 - b. Because the animal's death pictured the gift of a substitute.
 - c. Because the animal's death foreshadowed Jesus's death as our substitute.

The animal sacrificial system only worked because when people by faith sacrificed according to God's commands they were trusting in what the sacrifices pointed to: Jesus's future death.

3. **A History of Sacrifices**
 - a. **Cain and Abel** - Some sacrifices don't work. Why? The heart matters to God.

Heb. 11:4 (NLT) "It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith."

- b. **Abraham and Isaac** - A substitute can be offered in the place of the guilty.
 - i. Abraham was instructed to sacrifice his son Isaac. He walked in obedience to that command and God provided a substitute.
- c. **Passover** - A sacrifice works not because I am sinless but because my trust in the sufficient sacrifice.
 - i. The angel of death didn't look at the worthiness of whoever was in the house, but upon the passover lamb and what it foreshadowed: Jesus.
- d. **The Day of Atonement** (Lev. 16: Jesus is both the scapegoat and the blood)

Hebrews 9:11-14 (ESV) "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

1. **Dead works** = Filthy Rags (Hebrew: beged 'idim)

Isaiah 64:6a (NIV) "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags [...]."

4. **Why is Jesus the greatest sacrifice?**
 - a. **Because Jesus's sacrifice is enough for all people and once for all time.**

Hebrews 9:24-10:7 (ESV) "For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."

"1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

b. Because Jesus's death changes me from the inside out.

Hebrews 10:8- 18 (ESV) "When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."

c. Because Jesus's sacrifice settles once and for all if I am right with God.

Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV) "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

5. How does this impact us?

Hebrews 10:36-39 (ESV) "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls."

Life Group Questions

Ice Breaker: What are ways that people strive to be accepted by God?

1. Read Hebrews 9:6-14. What does it mean that Jesus "entered once for all into the holy places"?
 - a. Why is it so important that Jesus "offered himself without blemish to God"?
2. Hebrews 10:19-22 talks about a "confidence". If you were to die this week, do you have this confidence about your relationship with God?
 - a. If no, what questions or thoughts do you have?
3. Read Hebrews 10: 26-31. How can this warning be applied to life today?
4. Luke shared his story of being encouraged by believers and stepping up into the next opportunity that God gave him. Read Hebrews 10:36-39. What does that look like in your life?



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