

Spiritual Sacrifices, pt 1

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[0 : 00] Verse, praise God, praise God, you know what I mean? Can't deal with that one too much. But if Linda started playing a fifth verse and Russ started praising God.

All right, let's open up our Bibles to the Gospel of Luke and chapter number 20. Luke chapter 20. I never know how far we're going to get.

I have possibly a two-part message here. But it doesn't always happen that way. But I know we're going to start here in Luke anyway.

And we'll see. I think we'll probably just get through the first portion of this. Luke chapter 20. And let's begin reading in verse 19 through 26.

As far as the setting goes, we're very close in the timing of where we were last Wednesday. When the Lord Jesus Christ, at the end of his ministry, viewed. As a matter of fact, it's the next chapter.

[1 : 10] Luke 21, the first four verses. That he's sitting there watching them casting into the treasury. And the poor widow and casting in their two mites. So just before that, he's going toe-to-toe with some of these different sects of religions and cults.

And we studied this in detail in Matthew 22. And so reading in verse number 19, the Bible says, And the chief priests and the scribes at the same hour sought to lay hands on him.

And they feared the people, for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them. And they watched him and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him under the power and authority of the governor. And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly.

Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar or no? But he perceived their craftiness and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Show me a penny.

[2 : 18] Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. He said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's. And they could not take hold of his words before the people.

And they marveled at his answer and held their peace. Now, I marvel at his answer too. I really do. Not only are these hypocrites coming at him.

It says in verse 19, they sought to lay hands on him. They're so fuming mad at this man, this young man. They just want to rip him to pieces. But can't do that.

Gotta be civil. Gotta keep our reputations. People are looking at us. And so they sent spies, which feigned themselves just men. Honest men.

Men of integrity. Upstanding citizens. And said, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest. And they just lie through their teeth. And he perceives the whole time while they're puffing him up and lifting him up and saying all these kind words.

[3 : 19] He knows right what's underneath all of that. There's a wicked, desperate heart looking to kill him. And he perceives their craftiness and just nails them with something that they could not take hold of his words before the people.

They marveled at his answer. And they just shut their mouths. They held their peace. This blows me away. I marvel at his answer too. Because if they would have asked me the question, is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar or no?

I'd have thought, is it lawful? Okay, what's the law say? Okay, now let me. Okay, what's. I see Deuteronomy. And I'm running to my mind. What does the law say about giving?

And Jesus Christ didn't even go there. Nor should he. He didn't need to. He had an answer for them that was so, just blew them away. Didn't even have to deal with the law of Moses.

He gave them something that they couldn't even handle. And so, I like it. I like the way he responded to them. Is it lawful is what they're asking. Are we as Jews, are we as God's people supposed to submit to the Gentile authority?

[4 : 27] We're supposed to give to the treasury like the next chapter I already mentioned. But are we required to give with what God has so richly blessed us? Are we supposed to give that to the Gentiles?

And Christ just says, the coins are Caesar's, right? So, there's your answer. And I love it. They were speechless. Now, he adds something on to that in verse 25. I want to draw your attention to.

He said unto them, render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's. That's the coins. That's the money. And unto God the things which be God's.

Now, there's no coins that have God's image and superscription upon them that he's referring to here. I don't believe he's referring to money at all when he says he tacks that on.

He doesn't let them walk away just saying, well, you just render Caesar things that are Caesar's.

And they held their peace. No, he finished by saying, and make sure you're given God was his too.

[5 : 25] Because God has some things that he deserves. He's worthy of. And you owe to give him. And these men are the ones that needed to hear that statement as well. But what could he be speaking of?

What things would God be asking of us? Now, let's leave Luke for now. Let's just leave it behind and go to 1 Peter chapter 2. And I want to look there.

And then we're going to come back to Hebrews 13. What are those things that we're to render unto God?

1 Peter chapter 2. Look at just number 5. Verse number 5. Peter writes, he says, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house and holy priesthood. Notice this now.

To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. And that little last three words, you better have them in your Bible.

[6 : 34] Because any sacrifice, anything you offer to God, if it's not by Jesus Christ, it's not acceptable to God. You can't be acceptable to God if you don't have Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Ephesians chapter 1, he made us accepted in the beloved.

The only reason we're accepted to God is not because of our goodness, not because of the clothes we wear, not because we come to church on Wednesday night or memorize a verse or two of scripture. But it's because of Jesus Christ. But it's because of Jesus Christ.

Side note, praise the Lord for Jesus Christ. To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Spiritual sacrifices now. Not animal sacrifices.

Not sacrifices that can be measured in cash value with Washington's face on it. That's not a good example, is it? Those are just ones. With Franklin's face on it, maybe.

Now come back to Hebrews 13. Spiritual sacrifices. Is that what God wants us to offer to him? As we render to God the things that be God's?

[7 : 36] Hebrews 13. And here we have three things in verses 15 and 16. I'll back up just a little bit to catch the context.

Verse number, I'll start in verse 11. For the bodies of those beasts whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin are burned without the camp.

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.

That is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate, forget not. For with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.

[8 : 38] Here are three sacrifices mentioned in these two verses. And I'm calling them, what Peter called them, spiritual sacrifices. Because they're to be done out of the new man, if we could say that.

Just follow. So, the first one was the sacrifice of praise to God. And he explains that that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. The second one in verse 16 is to do good.

And to communicate, which means to give. Not to the local church necessarily, but be giving unto others. As we'll study maybe next week.

So, just rest assured when you saw me talking about money, second week in a row. I'm not going there again, so you can relax. But, there are sacrifices God deserves.

And I believe we're to render to God the things that be God's. He's calling for us to offer up sacrifices. The first one, here in Hebrews chapter 13, is the sacrifice of praise to God.

[9 : 39] And what's that next word say? Continually. Continually. So, it doesn't start and stop Wednesday night between 6.30 and 7.30, correct?

Or Sunday morning. So, we can actually just take our little time of church in the week. And that could just be part of our life, right? But it's not going to be where we offer a sacrifice of praise to God.

Only. Exclusively. No, it's continually the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. I want to look at these three sacrifices mentioned here. And this week, probably just the first one.

And say that we need to offer that sacrifice of praise to God continually. That is, the giving of thanks to his name. Now, that sounds easy, doesn't it? Right? I mean, what?

Just praise the Lord? I mean, sing a song, right? Give a testimony. Oh, pray before your meal.

That's good enough, right? I mean, that qualifies, giving thanks to his name, right?

[10 : 43] We're supposed to pray before our meal and receive the food with thanksgiving, 1 Timothy 4. So, I do that. I do that every day. Several times a day, as a matter of fact.

So, I got that covered. Is that right? Well, let's think about it. Let's get a little deeper. On the surface, it seems like that costs us nothing to sing in church, to pray before a meal.

It really probably doesn't cost us nothing. In that case, can we qualify it as a sacrifice? Sacrifice.

That's what I want you to think about. Because the word sacrifice implies that you're giving up something of value.

That it's costing you something. That there's hurt in some way in order to give something over to God. To give him what he deserves, a spiritual sacrifice.

In these verses, I want you to notice, let me back up and read again verses 12 and 13. It describes Jesus Christ suffering without the gate.

[11 : 50] That's outside of the city of Jerusalem. They took him out there to Calvary. And so, then in verse 13, let us go forth, therefore, unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

So, I want to say that the sacrifice of praise and the fruit of our lips offering thanks to God is supposed to be being done out there.

Without this little camp here. On the outside of the church house. Not collectively together. But out there. Just where he went and suffered.

And where we're to go bearing his reproach. That's the context that we read. I want to say a few things here that offering the sacrifice of praise to God.

If it's a sacrifice, it's going to cost you something. And here's a few things I think it'll cost you to do it out there. Number one, it'll cost you your pride. It'll cost you your pride.

[12 : 48] You're going to have to swallow your pride in order to publicly praise or thank God the way you're supposed to do it. Your pride, on the contrary, your pride, the biggest obstacle you'll ever have, is more concerned about you.

And how you look to them. Than it is how Jesus Christ looks to them. And whether his name's getting praised. Your pride needs to be sacrificed.

So that you can instead be concerned. Not about how they think of you. But what they think of him. Come back to Matthew chapter 16. Let's read a verse back in Matthew. You can probably lose your place in Hebrews.

I don't know that we'll come back there tonight. Matthew 16. Speaking of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Verse number 24. Jesus said unto his disciples. If any man will come after me. Let him deny himself. First.

[14 : 06] Let him deny himself. And take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it. And whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

The first thing that has to be done is a man has to deny himself. In order to take up his cross and be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's going to cost you something. And I think the first thing that's going to cost you is your pride.

You're either going to deny yourself. Or you're going to deny Jesus Christ what he deserves from you. The sacrifice of praise from your lips out there.

The Bible says in Matthew 6. No man can serve two masters. And you can't serve your pride and yourself. And keep up that look and that feeling of accomplishment. And they're not making fun of me. And they're not looking at me this way. You can't keep that up. If you're going to publicly praise Jesus Christ. I think there's many, many, many a born again believer alive today.

[15:07] That are not even close to offering God what he wants from their life. Because of one thing. Their pride. They won't swallow it.

They won't sacrifice it. They won't put it down and give him the glory with their life. And he's not getting that sacrifice of praise from their lips. And that thanks that he deserves. Instead they're holding on to their pride. It's going to cost you your pride if you're going to offer this sacrifice. It's going to cost you something else. I think it'll cost you your image. It'll cost you your image.

Now you may seem like a normal person out there in the world. Maybe to your co-workers. Maybe to your neighbors. Maybe they think, yeah, a good neighbor. Doesn't cause any problems. Doesn't party late at night. You know, we have a good relationship. Honest. They may look at you at work and say, oh, they're friendly. They're on time.

[16:03] They're accountable. They're dependable. You may have that image in front of them, in front of the world. And you think, that's good. And it is good.

It's better than not having that image. But that cannot be your Christian testimony to the lost world. Is that I'm dependable.

I'm honest. You could pack up that attitude and that testimony and move to Utah and fit right in with the Mormons and end up in hell. That's not going to cut it.

That's not a sacrifice. That's not costing you anything. It's going to cost you your image. It's not enough just to be nice and to get along with each other.

Jesus Christ is worthy that his name comes out of your lips when you're in the lost world, when you're around your neighbors, when you're around your co-workers.

[17:02] He deserves that sacrifice of praise from your lips. Nobody wants to look like a weirdo. I know. Nobody wants to feel like, oh, they're calling me the Bible thumper.

Or they think I'm in some cult. You don't want to be marked in this life. There's something inside of you that doesn't want that.

But you know in Acts chapter 11 when they got that name Christian, when they called him Christian is because the way they assembled together. It's because they were following the word of God. They were disciples of the Lord.

And the people started throwing a term on him. It was a derogatory term. They marked him as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ.

And you know what it cost those people back then? It cost them their image. Because now they were lumped with the Christians. And the Lord Jesus Christ got something out of their life.

[17:59] And by the way, nobody thinks you're a follower of Jesus Christ if you don't talk about him. Nobody thinks you're a follower of Jesus Christ if you don't offer him the sacrifice of praise from your lips and thanksgiving from your mouth.

In Philippians, I'll just flip to it quickly. The Apostle Paul lists his credentials. And he makes this statement here in Philippians chapter 3.

He talks about everything that he was and all the... I mean, he was up there. And he says, But what things were gained to me? Those I counted loss for Christ.

I just dropped the whole thing, my whole reputation and image before everybody that I might gain Christ, that I may win Christ and be found in him.

What a line. I underline that. To be found in him. You know what we read in Matthew? We read that if a man will lose his life for my sake, shall find it.

[19:04] The Apostle Paul had to count his life but dung and sacrifice his image and his pride and be found in him. He found a real life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to consider the Lord Jesus Christ, what he had to sacrifice. Speaking of sacrificing an image, in Hebrews chapter 1, it describes Christ as being the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person.

In Colossians, he's the image of the invisible God. And yet the Lord Jesus Christ stepped down from that glory and took upon him the form of a servant.

No reputation came down to this filthy world and was not elevated or exalted. No reputation is what he took on.

It was made in the likeness of man. It cost him his image. It cost him having his visage so marred more than any man.

[20 : 13] Having his beard pulled from his face and his face and body bruised by the hands of filthy men. Having his side pierced.

And worst of all, the Son of God, the only begotten Son of God, forsaken by his Father. Forsaken. Why hast thou forsaken me?

What did I do wrong? He gave up an image, all right. He sacrificed his image for you and me. Is it so much for him to ask us to give up our image that we're so worried about holding on to and be looked at like a Christian?

Like a Bible thumper. Like we believe in Jesus Christ and we read our Bibles every day and we talk to him. And it's more important to us than anything else.

Is it so hard for us to give up our image to glorify him with our mouth? It's going to cost you this sacrifice of praise to God.

[21 : 20] It's going to cost you your pride. It's going to cost you your image. And it's going to cost you your relationship with others. Look at John chapter 5 in the Gospels.

John chapter 5. I want to point out something here. If you're willing to offer God that spiritual sacrifice of praise out there, it's going to cost you your relationship with others.

It's bound to. In verse 44, here's something interesting here. Christ says to the man, he says, How can ye believe which receive honor one of another?

That's their human relationships. They receive honor one of another. They pat each other on the back. And he says this, And seek not the honor that cometh from God only.

Notice that their relationships are focused on what man thinks. And keeping each other in good standing. And having each other's back. And receiving honor from men. But there's something wrong with that relationship.

[22 : 32] That it's not built upon truth. They're not seeking honor that comes from God only. Glorifying God. Well, skip that.

But come to John chapter 12. When a man wants to honor God. And receive the honor that comes from God. He's going to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

He's going to publicly declare who the Son of God is. And not be ashamed of him. But some people are ashamed of Jesus Christ. And would rather receive the honor from lost sinners.

And keep that image. And keep that relationship intact. Rather than be giving glory and honor to the one whom God sent. John chapter 12.

Here's another problem. Verse 42 and 3. Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on him. That's they believed on Jesus Christ.

[23 : 30] But because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him with their mouth. Lest they should be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

There it is again. They feared to open their mouth about what they believed in their heart. That's what it says. They believed on him. But they were afraid to open their mouth about him.

And instead of cutting off the praise that men had for them. They wanted to retain that relationship. And they kept their mouths closed.

About their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you offer that sacrifice of praise to God publicly.

And let them know who you are and who you serve. It will cost you some relationships. That's for sure. It will sever some relationships down here. You'll lose some of that praise from men.

[24 : 31] And you'll lose some of that honor that man gives you. And you'll drive some people away from you. Because Jesus Christ repulses the lost. He repulses the world.

Especially if you believe in him. Especially if you talk about him. Well, they might accept you're just a religious person. Or that you go to church. And they know somebody else that goes to church. No big deal.

Like it's accepted today. But if you talk about him. And witness to him. And invite him. And hand him tracts. And try to go after their soul. You'll see how much they like you.

And how much they want to get rid of you. And avoid you. 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 4. Peter said this. They think it's strange. That ye run not with them.

To the same excess of riot. Speaking evil of you. That's the lost world. Starts to speak evil of you. Behind your back. Because you're not hanging with them anymore.

[25 : 26] It might cost you your relationships. The sacrifice of praise. Praise to God. That is. The fruit of our lips.

Giving thanks to his name. Come to Acts chapter 4. And we'll start to wind this point down. Acts chapter 4. The apostle Peter is preaching.

They ask him a question. And he's filled with the Holy Ghost. And he answers their question. They ask by what power. Or by what name. Have ye done this?

In verse 7. And he lets them know. That it was Jesus Christ. Of Nazareth. Whom ye crucified. He didn't have a problem. Letting them know.

Now in verse 13. Now when they saw. The work ethic. Of Peter and John. Nope. When they saw the morality.

[26 : 31] When they saw the honesty. When they saw the dependability. No. No. And no again. When they saw the boldness of them. What was the bold? It was the fruit of their lips.

The boldness was what was coming out of their mouth. They weren't afraid. Of anybody in the room. Because they were speaking the truth of Jesus Christ.

They took a stand. They were bold. And when they saw that. They marveled. They took knowledge of them. Means they asked around. Said. And they found out. Yep. They've been with Jesus.

Now. What did that cost them? When they were bold. To proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. Oh it cost them. Look at verse 21. So when they had further threatened them.

They let them go. So they threatened them. Says earlier in the passage. That we need to threaten them. Let us straightly threaten them. That they speak. Henceforth no man. And so these powerful men.

[27 : 31] Cast out threats. At these disciples. These nobodies. Of Jesus Christ. Saying. Don't do it again. And gave them the eye. And stern as they could. And they threatened punishment.

Well that didn't last. It didn't work. So look in chapter 5. And there. There's the same scene. And there's preaching. Going on here again.

By the apostle Peter. And people being healed. He's ministering. For Jesus Christ. And Acts 5 verse 18. And laid their hands. On the apostles. And put them in the common prison.

So there's the next step. First they're threatened. Now they're imprisoned. Now they get released. And look at verse 40. In verse 40. To him they agreed.

And when they'd called the apostles. And beaten them. They commanded. They should not speak. In the name of Jesus. And let them go. So not only did they get imprisoned. Now they're getting beat. Physically harmed.

[28 : 27] Because of Jesus Christ. Yeah it cost them something. And something else it cost them. It started. Look at verse 33. When they heard that. They were cut to the heart.

And took counsel to slay them. That's what the end is for these men. And one by one. Eventually they're martyred. They're killed. For the name. Yeah it cost them something.

Opening their mouth for Jesus Christ. It cost them a lot. The sacrifice of praise to God. It's a sacrifice. It's what I want us to consider tonight.

It has to cost you something. In order for it to be a sacrifice. It's just not a gift. It's a sacrifice. And something it could cost you. Is your personal pride.

Swallowing it. Shutting it off. Sacrificing it on the altar. So that Jesus Christ can get glorified. Be glorified. From your mouth. And your lips. It could cost you your image.

[29 : 24] Where you work. Where you live. Among your family. Among your friends. And. Somebody needs to tell them. Somebody needs to show them. That Jesus Christ is real.

He's alive. And what he's done for your soul. It may cost you your image. Is it worth it to you? And it may cost you some relationships. Is that worth it to you?

Do you good? I've said this before. Do all of us good. To learn of our brothers and sisters of the past. In church history. And the trail of blood. And the things they've put up with and endured.

And the blood they've shed. And the families been ripped apart. And to understand what they did for Jesus Christ. At least just to mentally get it up here. To know that. This thing's real.

And there's a history to this. And I'm. I'm by the grace of God. Dropped into this family. Of believers. And really haven't had to suffer anything like that.

[30 : 23] But if you act. If you offer a sacrifice to God. It's going to cost you something. In Luke chapter 17. You remember the story about the 10 lepers. The 10 lepers that Jesus Christ sends them on their way.

And they go. And they're healed on the way. And one of them turns back. And one of them. The Bible says. That he turned back. And with a loud voice. Glorified God. And fell down on his face. At his feet. And gave thanks. To Jesus Christ. And Christ is like. Weren't there 10 cleansed? Where the nine? There hath not returned.

But to give glory to God. But this one. And says he was a Samaritan at that. A Samaritan at that. What is the deal with the ones that weren't the Samaritans.

That should have known better. And should have come back. And should have glorified God. And with that loud voice. One out of 10.

[31 : 22] All 10 were cleansed. But one fell at Christ's feet. And gave glory to God. Lord. I wonder tonight. As we're going to close here. I wonder. Are you that one?

Is that your voice? That Jesus Christ hears. Out there. Glorifying him? Are you that one? Lifting up your voice for Christ? Declaring what he has done for your soul?

Are you offering that sacrifice? Even if it costs you something? There's other things we'll study.

Maybe Lord willing. Next week. To do good. And to communicate.

Forget not. For with such sacrifices. God is well pleased. Your God. That gave his son for your filthy soul.

To rescue you out of hell. Your God is well pleased. When you offer that sacrifice of praise to him. He deserves it. You do know that.

[32 : 19] He deserves it. So what is it that's stopping us. From giving it to him. When we're out there. Tomorrow morning. The Holy Spirit of God may deal with your heart.

On the job. And may say. Tell him. Tell him. And then you're going to have to decide. You're going to decide.

Am I going to offer my pride? Am I going to offer my image to God? Am I going to offer a relationship? Of what they think about me?

And let Jesus Christ. be glorified in me? I don't know what you'll choose to do, but I promise you this. I know this for a fact. If you choose to offer that sacrifice of praise to God and let that come out of your lips what he deserves, you'll leave, no matter how it ends up with the person, you'll leave thankful.

You'll leave relieved. You'll leave happy in the Lord. Peter said, if you're reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye. You're going to find there's peace and happiness and wonderful joy when I obey God and glorify his son, Jesus Christ. And there's regret and there's shame and there's remorse when you don't do it. It's all inside of you and you hate it and you hate that you're so weak.

[33 : 40] So offer it, sacrifice it for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Let's bow our heads. We'll just close here. in prayer. Father, Lord, I pray that this challenge tonight was a help to your people, to myself, to all of us. And God, that we'd be quick to open our mouths for you, that we wouldn't be ashamed of you.

Give us courage. We lack it. The flesh is weak. Lord, you took part in that flesh. You acknowledge that. You know what it's like. And so, Lord, please intercede in our behalves. And when these moments come in these times of day, when you offer or give us this opportunity, help us to be bold, just like Peter, and spend time with you and get that strength from you. And then, Lord, let us glorify you with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the world who needs to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, thank you for giving us a reason. Thank you for saving us. Thank you for giving us hope in our bodies and knowing that we'll be with you in glory one day. Lord, let us not keep that to ourselves.

Thank you for the word of God and for the challenge this is to be better. And I pray that each one would take it serious for Jesus' sake, that he'd receive something from all of this. It's in his name I ask it. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen, all. Y'all dismissed. Amen. Amen.

[35 : 20] Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Thank you.