

Developing A Heart for Worship & Celebration!



READ: Nehemiah 12 (various verses)

²⁷ At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. ²⁸ The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, ²⁹ from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the musicians had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. ³⁰ When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

³¹ I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate.

...³⁸ The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people—past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, ³⁹ over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped.

⁴⁰ The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, ⁴¹ as well as the priests...

⁴³ And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose. William Temple

REFLECT: How does “worship” and “sacrifice” come together as an expression of what matters most to us?

And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. Nehemiah 12:43

“Sacrifice” = Means you were bringing something to offer another because that god, person, or object means a great deal to you.

Q: Where do you find yourself sacrificing for something you value?

Offerings of the Old Covenant (sacrifices)

Burnt Offering (olah) = The purpose of the burnt offering was for general atonement of sin and expression of devotion to God. (bulls, rams, birds. Voluntary)

Grain Offering (minchah) = This was an expression of devotion to God, recognizing His goodness and providence. (generally it was cooked bread. Voluntary)

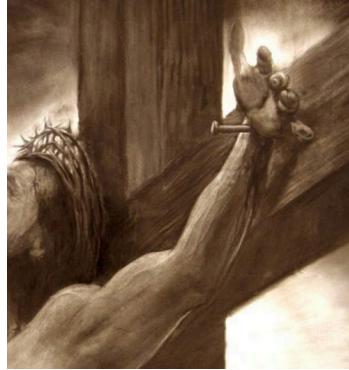
Peace Offering (shelem) = The purpose of the peace offering was to consecrate a meal between two or more parties before God and share that meal together in fellowship of peace and a commitment to each others’ future prosperity. (any animal or food that demonstrated a genuine attitude of thankfulness. Voluntary)

Sin/Purification Offering (chattath) = This dealt with two issues: the necessity of forgiveness from unintentional sins and cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness (Required)

Guilt/Trespass /Reparations Offering (asham) = This caused the individual to look beyond the sin itself and to the damage it caused. The purpose of this offering was to make reparations for one’s sin. (using whatever one had to repay a debt owed. Required)

What did Jesus sacrifice accomplish?

For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. ¹¹ Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Hebrews 10:10-12



This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

What kind of sacrifice does God want from us?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

"If with courage and joy we pour ourselves out for Him and for others for His sake, it is not possible to lose, in any final sense, anything worth keeping. We will lose ourselves and our selfishness. We will gain everything worth having."

Elisabeth Elliot, The Path of Loneliness: Finding Your Way Through the Wilderness to God

Have you experienced the amazing love God has for you?

How are you expressing your thanks back to Him?

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Take some time this week to reflect on the following verses from 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9:

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.

Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

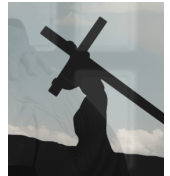
You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God...

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

What is God asking you to do in these verses?

We are excited to have all three Covenant Churches come together to celebrate two Holy Week events! We will be meeting at Rochester Covenant Church: 4950 31st Ave. NW



Maunder Thursday Service – April 6, 6:30 pm
Good Friday Service – April 7, 6:30 pm

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

FIND OUT MORE... newdaycov.org

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