

Worship-Offering a Sacrifice of Praise

Psalm 50

I. Review of Past Sermons

- A. Last week we delved on the subject of worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. We illustrated worship in this manner: we show how much we value a person in the way we treat him/her. This is shown when that person visits your home. What accommodations do you prepare for him? In the same vein, we show how much we value the Lord Jesus Christ in the way we treat him.
- 1 Let us look at the different valuations of people about the Lord Jesus Christ which runs from just a (a) piece of conversation to (b) being dispensable to (c) just thirty pieces of silver, the price of a servant.
 - 2 Let us also look at the unique regard of Mary to the Lord Jesus Christ when she poured on Him a very expensive perfume; without reservations, she gave all to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 3 Previously, we also saw another way of giving regard to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is when Abraham would willingly offer up Isaac, his only beloved son.
 - 4 In addition, in Mk. 12:41-44, on the occasion when people bring money to the treasury, the Lord commended the poor widow who gave more than the rich who brought a lot to the treasury because they gave out of their abundance while the widow gave out of her need.
- B. From the above examples, we learn that the worship acceptable to the Lord Jesus is that which is offered at a great price. For example: David, when he made an offering unto the Lord that the plague may be stayed would not use the threshingfloor and the instruments thereof without a price to be paid. David said, "Nay, but I will surely buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." (2 Sam. 24:24)

II. Today, in our study of the Word of God, and take a look at Psalm 50.

- A. Psalm 50 is composed of three groups:
- 1 The Lord says in Psalm 50:1-6: "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Who are those saints? Those who have made a covenant with the Lord. A covenant of offering and sacrifice.
 - 2 This covenant of offering and sacrifice is not an animal sacrifice to the Lord. Why? Because the Lord owns all things and all life. How can you say, therefore, it is a sacrifice indeed when in fact all sacrificial animals belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Likewise, the Lord owns the life of the person who offers the sacrifice. Yes, even his livelihood comes from Him. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the object of the sacrifice is the owner of all things and the world. (Ps. 24:1) The Lord said in verse 14, "Offer unto God thanksgiving (haing pasasalamat); and pay thy vows to the Most High."

The basis of sacrificial offering is not only in its realization, but we should offer sacrifice with thanksgiving.

- 3 Vv. 16-23. The disobedient and the evil-doers cannot give glory to the Lord. In v. 23, the sacrifice of giving thanks unto the Lord is precisely the worship of praise and glory to Lord.

B. Everyone prays but there are different ways of prayer.

- 1 The lowest form of prayer is the prayer of 'solicitation' to the Lord. The only reason why one prays is to ask something from Him. "Lord give me this and that". "Lord help me.", "Lord heal me". Nothing is wrong with asking things from the Lord. The only thing is, when one prays with a wrong motive. For example: "Lord heal me of my sickness so I can go partying in the disco." However, when one prays so he can be used to serve the Lord, then it becomes a good prayer. Nonetheless, it is still the lowest form of prayer.
- 2 The higher level of prayer is listening to the Lord Jesus Christ. When one says, "I am yours Lord" and the Lord would answer, "and I am yours too". This is precisely communing and fellowshiping with the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 15:1-7; Rev. 3:20; 1 Cor. 1:9)
- 3 The highest level of prayer is "worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ." When one says in his heart, "Bless the Lord, O my soul". In this level, there is sacrifice of praise, and sacrifice of thanksgiving. You bless the Lord. Not in the sacrifice of anything but sacrifice of worship. Jesus no longer serves, but He is the one being served by you. "Bless the Lord" not "bless me Lord". It is difficult to offer praise and thanksgiving when you are faced with a seemingly insurmountable problem. Though you find it difficult to bless Him, yet with all sacrifice you praise Him anyway, then this becomes the highest level of prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. In Psalm 50, all the saints congregate in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1 The gathering point of all the godly is the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen. 49:10- "unto Him (Shiloh-the One whom the scepter belongs to, i.e., the Messiah) shall the gathering of the people be), (cf. Matt. 18:20) Their godliness is their gathering and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. Their gathering unto the Lord Jesus Christ is their offering of thanksgiving to the Lord.
- 2 Others refuse to offer sacrifice to the Lord Jesus Christ. They do not realize that the essence of worship is to offer sacrifice and thanksgiving. For example, when people dine in a restaurant, they give 'tip' to the waiter as a gesture of gratitude. But very few people thank the Lord for all the blessings they receive. The waiter is more blessed because he gets a 10% tip, but the Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of all life, breath and all things gets nothing. "We always give Jesus the credit but we seldom give Him the cash."
- 3 In Jer 17:26-"bringing the sacrifice of praise unto the house of the Lord." You honor the Lord Jesus Christ because He is not tightwad nor a cheapskate. Not even a swindler (like the 'crying' religious idols). He is the

God of love, truth, perfect justice and infinite grace. Don't you realize He holds in His hand all power in this world even unto eternity? The power to save all from perdition? Power to give you eternal life? Power to give you glory evermore? Do you give import to this truth? If you gather with the Lord Jesus Christ, do you offer sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to Him?

- D. There is one pattern we can see from the examples we have studied thus far. This is the offering of sacrifice to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the highest level of worship to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is worship that is not based on what is convenient, worship that is not based on obligation. But it is a worship that is based on love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Just like the song which goes, "Here I am, broken and spilled out for my love for Jesus because Lord you were broken and spilled out for me."
- E. Before Abraham actually offered Isaac, he was asked by Isaac as to where is the lamb for burnt offering. Abraham replied, "The Lord will provide." Abraham saw the provision of the Lord by faith. But when Abraham had offered Abraham, "in a figure" (Heb. 11:19), it was at that point that Abraham saw the provision of the Lord, no longer by faith but by sight. When you make that costly sacrifice of praise, that costly sacrifice of thanksgiving to Jesus, at that point the provision of the Lord has been realized in your life.
- F. If we make that sacrifice for the Lord of the most costly, most precious, most priced offering, the Lord's provision is guaranteed. What's the guarantee? Rom. 8:32-He who spared not His own Son, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things? The over-arching provision of God is the sacrificial offering of His Son Jesus Christ. If the only begotten Son, whom the Father loves and in whom the Father is pleased, is given for us, there would be no provision that will be kept from us by God but that all provisions have already been given to us in Christ Jesus, when we offer our all in as a sacrifice for the Lord Jesus Christ.