

A Call to Relationship: Sin within the Community

Main Scripture: Leviticus 4: 13-21

Supporting Scriptures: Deuteronomy 11:17; 2 Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:2; Luke 1:68-69; 1 Kings 1:49-53; 1 John 2:1; Luke 16: 19-23; Proverbs 11:10-11

Notes:

Tonight we are looking at the nation of Israel. One of the things we will learn is that sin affects us in different ways and here he is speaking specifically to the nation of Israel. The entire community sins by violating only one of God's commands but they don't know about it they are still guilty. So God is not winking at their sins. Once again the Lord is instructing the nation of Israel as to how they can get rid of the guilt and this is important for us. It is not dealing with intentional sins this is something done and they are unaware of it but as time progresses they will become aware of their sin. Sin can destroy us as a people.

The people must select a young bull as an offering for their Sin. - God is giving them an opportunity to remove their guilt so that they can have fellowship with Him. And so these instructions have to be followed carefully. The Elders of the community (not necessarily leaders of the tribes but these are men of wisdom and are an example to the community) must lay their hands on the head of the bull. This is similar to the burnt offering and this is considered the laying on of hands signifying that this animal will bear the guilt. This phrase signifies not just laying your hand but pressing upon the bull. The High priest needs to kill this animal as pain-free as possible and then the high priest dips his finger in the blood and sprinkles it 7 times and 7 here is a number of perfection. This is significant to note that the blood is used in the holy place and not the holy of holies. For any man to stand in the presence of the Lord he has to come with blood. The high priest sprinkles the blood on the curtain of the holiest place as well as on the horns of the altar. The Horns of the altar -

Horn was a metaphor for strength and power [Deuteronomy 11:17; 2 Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:2]

Yesha - deliverance rescue and the root Yesha - to save to deliver to give victory.

God is called our horn of Salvation in the old testament but is also applies to Jesus in Luke 1:68-69; 1 Kings 1:49-53

Example of Adonijah who rose up and grabbed a hold of the horns of the altar pleading for his life. Solomon then said if he would show himself worthy he would not die. These horns represent Christ Jesus who is become our salvation and so the high priest would put the blood on the horns signifying their salvation.

The smoke from the altars represents the prayers that leave the earth to God. The blood on that horn shows the force of all intercession that lies in the blood.

As soon as we are aware of sin in our lives guilt set in and for us to operate in confidence we must get rid of guilt in any form. The nation here is guilty even though they are unaware but as soon as they are aware they have to deal with it because the relationship with the Lord is now compromised. This is important to us as believers is that as soon as we are aware of the guilt setting in it then begins to cripple our confidence

in the Lord. As a result, our prayer life becomes choked and one doesn't have the confidence to appear before the Lord.

The high priest sprinkles the blood on the altar - signifying that when guilt sets in we need to remember and lay hold on the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. If that guilt is not removed we will grow cold. One has to look to the blood of Jesus shed for us

1 John 2:1

When Adam sinned it was the first time they felt like that in their lives they had become guilty and the Lord came down and had a convocation with them and the Lord realized man can't deal with his own guilt. So God shed blood and used the skin to cover their nakedness. One of the greatest challenges for a believer is when they become defiled. This offering was for unintentional sins and no provision was left for intentional sins but Jesus came and died to deal with all sin. As soon as we recognize we have sinned are to look to God and come to him with boldness. What the enemy tries to do is to cloud your mind with guilt and you will naturally move away from the presence of the Lord. What we need to do is to look to the blood- the death of Christ Jesus and grab hold of it. When Christ died he died for all our sins.

We see that the same offering for the high priest is being done for the nation of Israel. God gets the best part of the sacrifice. Through this process, they will be forgiven not just to cover their sins. Even though they were forgiven for that act, the nature of sin was still present until Jesus came.

Everything that was leftover for this animal was taken outside the camp — the same place where the bull for the high priest was taken and it is burnt. This act of burning was not positive. The burning on the altar was an aroma to go up to the lord but the burning outside the camp was an act of judgment for sin transferred to the animal. The remains for the sin offering were to be destroyed outside the camp.

Effect of sin on a community, God is saying here that there are times the entire community is sinful in His eyes. Remember God drove out the Canaan inhabitants because they were practicing detestable acts.

God will sometimes place an entire nation before him. Even when the church is doing good, God looks at the leaders of our country and sees that they have turned from him and this will affect the country.

The entire land is placed under judgment
Proverbs 11:11

This lets us more aware of how important it is for us to be our brother's keeper and that's why in the laws if a man witnessed something and did not want to confess that would be a sin. If they saw that something would break the fellowship of the community and didn't do anything the Lord holds that person responsible. As a church, we are responsible for each other.

It is often said that "by the blood of the bull (as was explained in the high priest offering or for the congregation) that they covered their sins but let's note that these sacrifices forgave (whipped clean) sins.

Luke 16: 19-23

If the law did not deal with the nature of sin then those who served God under the law - what happened to them? Luke 16 how's a place that was reserved for the righteous after death and they were kept in that place why? Because the nature of sin was not dealt with until Jesus came to take away the sin, not sin but the nature of sin in the World.

When Christ died he preached to them in the grave and loosed them. We understand that those in Abraham's bosom had to accept the sacrifice of Jesus and those who failed to adhere to the law were eternally separated. Likewise, those who don't accept Jesus now will also be eternally separated.

Jesus Christ has prepared for us the ultimate sacrifice that none of us need to walk around with a guilty conscience. And Trust him and walk by faith in the blood that was shed.

Adonijah held on to the altar in the faith of salvation and was saved. Joab held on to the alter not in faith and was killed.

Only Jesus' blood can deal with guilt. No one will have any excuse before the Lord when there is so much power in the blood of Jesus to remove the pain of Sin because guilt not dealt with will place us in a backslidden state. But there is provision- a better sacrifice to wipe our slate clean. Perhaps you sinned and you knew but you can call on him in repentance and lean on his trust in his sacrifice and forgiveness will be granted by faith.