



Motives Matter

AMOS 5:21 - 24

Motives in Sacrifice



Holiness Matters

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which *no one* will see the Lord.”

(Hebrews 12:14)

Overview of Leviticus

“You shall be holy for I am holy.” (Leviticus 11:44 – 45)

The Laws of Acceptable **Approach to God**: Sacrifice (1 - 17)

- Sacrifices necessary to approach God (1 – 7)
- Laws concerning the Priests (8 – 10)
- Laws concerning Purity (11 – 15)

Laws of National Atonement (16 – 17)

Overview of Leviticus

“You shall be holy for I am holy.” (Leviticus 11:44 – 45)

Laws of Acceptable **Walk with God**: Sanctification – (18 – 27)

- Sexual and Social Purity Rules (18 – 20)
- Laws of Purity for the Priests (21 – 22)
- Laws of Sanctification in Worship (23 – 24)
- Rules of conduct and consequences of obedience and disobedience once they enter Canaan (25 – 27)

God's love expressed through Law

(Deut. 4:8) “And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so **righteous as all this law** that I set before you today?”

(Deut. 6:24 – 25) “And the LORD commanded us to do **all these statutes**, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are **careful to do all this commandment** before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.”

Two Greatest Commandments

(Matthew 22:36 – 40) 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Motive Matters in Worship

Romans 12:1 – 2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Methods Matter Also

1 Chronicles 15:13, 15 “Because you did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule.”
15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.” (ESV)

Isaiah 1:10 - 20

1:13 “Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17 learn to **do good; seek justice, correct oppression**; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.”

Amos 5:21 - 24

"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. 24 But let **justice** roll down like waters, and **righteousness** like an ever-flowing stream. 25 "Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?"

Malachi 1:8 - 10

“When you offer **blind** animals in **sacrifice**, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are **lame or sick**, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. 9 And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. 10 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.”

Psalm 51:10 - 19

14 "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.** 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will **declare your praise.** 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a **broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise. 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will **you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings**; then bulls will be offered on your altar."

Micah 6:6 - 8

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly** with your God?"

How Should We Then Live?

1. "I don't want you to offer the sacrifices in worship that I commanded you to offer?"
2. Or, if you persist in living corrupt, unholy and selfish lives without attention to **My will My way** then close the doors, forget the songs and remove the sacrifices.
3. None of these passages teach that any worship God has prescribed is unimportant or insignificant.
4. All of these statements emphasize that motive matters when approaching God according to His methods.

Motives Matter to Christ

Matthew 5:3 – 8 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Trusting in our Righteousness

Luke 18:9 – 14 “He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, *extortioners, unjust, adulterers*, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’”

Am I known for what I don't do?

Weightier Matters

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the **weightier matters** of the law: *justice and mercy and faithfulness*. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Matthew 23:23

Deceptive Sacrifice is Rejected

Mal. 1:6 – 10 Robbing God by offering rejects for sacrifices

Acts 5:1 – 1 Lying to God about our Prosperity

1 Samuel 15:22 “Then Samuel said: Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in **obeying the Lord**? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.”

1. What Saul had done was called rebellion and rejection of the word of the Lord.

Review:

- A. God commands sacrifice in Genesis and Leviticus and (Rom. 12:1 – 2). “Our bodies are to be a living sacrifice”
- B. God requires proper motive to accompany the doing of His will. (Amos 5:24) “justice and righteousness”
- C. God is honored in carefully keeping the details of His will with proper motive. (Matthew 23:23) “justice, mercy and faithfulness”