



LESSON 130 MARK 12:32-34

And one of the scribes came,...., asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe's answer revealed more about his heart and mind than he realized. His answer "to love...is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices" showed that he understood that God is not as interested in outward rituals and religious activities as He is in the condition of our heart and what our inward attitudes are, because those will determine what we will do. God wants our worship of Him to be true and our sacrifices to be indicative of pure hearts. Here are some verses about the kind of sacrifices that please the Lord.

Hebrews 13:15-16 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 (share with others) forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Phil 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said (to King Saul), Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Ps 51:15-17 O Lord, ... my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: (D: about your sin), a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 4:5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Phil 2:17 the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Ps 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises

unto the LORD.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Eph 5:1-2 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (The giving of ourselves in complete trust to God becomes like a sweet-smelling incense or perfume to the Lord.) Tell the Lord you want to love and please Him; ask Him to teach you how to do that every day.

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