



Demonstrating Faith Through Sacrifice

INTRODUCTION: Faith is a vital part of the Christian's life. Without faith one can't be saved from their sins, have assurance of the promises of God, or please Him in their lives. While there are numerous public expressions of faith that we tend to focus on, we are reminded in this message that God is looking at the heart. Our private demonstrations of faith say more to Him and others than we realize. Listen in today to learn how you, too, can live by faith and experience the greater things He has in store.

READ: Hebrews 11:1-4, Genesis 4:1-10

DISCUSSION:

1. How are the sacrifices of the Old Testament similar and different to a "sacrifice" we might make today?
2. What sacrifices have you seen others make to honor God?
 - a. How has their example impacted you?
 - b. From your perspective, how has God viewed their sacrifice?
3. Abel's faith in God was established at an early age. What things about God do you think Adam and Eve explained to their children? If you were in their shoes what would you have taught?
4. What was so significant about the "clothing" that God prepared for Adam and Eve after they sinned?
 - a. What did this point to concerning the future?
 - b. How did this likely impact Abel?
5. In looking at the descriptions of the event of Genesis 4, what did Cain and Abel have in common? How were they different?
6. What does the Bible tell us specifically about the offering of Abel? What does this mean? How should we follow Abel's example still today?
7. As a group, read Malachi 1:6-14 and answer the following questions:
 - What was wrong with the sacrifices being brought?
 - What did their sacrifices reveal about their hearts condition?
 - How did God respond to these offerings?
 - How is this similar to Cain's offering?
 - How does this personally apply to our lives today?
8. As a group, read 1 Samuel 15:22. What is the key thing that God is looking for in our lives today? Is there anything specific that God is calling you to give to Him today as an act of worship? If so, commit to honor God today through faith and obedience.

MAKE IT SO:

Abel demonstrated real faith through a great sacrifice. We would be wise to follow his example in our own lives today. Let's make it our challenge beginning today, examine an area of your life that your faith can grow in by sacrificing that area to be able to our all and our best for the glory of God. What needs to be your sacrifice?

READING LIST:

Monday: Malachi 1:1-5 / **Tuesday:** Malachi 1:6-14 / **Wednesday:** Malachi 2:1-9 / **Thursday:** Malachi 2:10-17
Friday: Malachi 3:1-7 / **Saturday:** Malachi 3:8-18 / **Sunday:** Malachi 4:1-6