

BEHOLD THE LAMB

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | Who determines how we worship God? Us? God?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | How has God determined how we are to worship Him?

SUNDAY, MARCH 7 | The preeminent sacrifice in the Old Testament: Unpacking Exodus 12 and the Passover.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14 | Passover at the time of Jesus.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 | Holy Thursday. Good Friday. Jesus. The New Covenant. The new sacrifice. The new *Lamb*.

IN CASE YOU'RE JUST JOINING US, A SUMMARY OF WEEK I

1 THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me. You shall worship **me** and **me alone**.

— Exodus, chapter 20 and Deuteronomy chapter 5

2 FIRST TIME GOD SPOKE TO PEOPLE (NOT A PERSON) GOD FIRST TAUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE

Exodus 20:1-17 ▶ The 10 commandments

Exodus 21 ▶ How to live

Exodus 22 ▶ How to live

Exodus 23 ▶ How to live

3 FIRST TIME GOD SPOKE TO PEOPLE (NOT A PERSON) GOD ALSO TAUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOW TO WORSHIP

Exodus 25 ▶ The Ark of the Covenant, items for the “meeting tent”

Exodus 26 ▶ Items for the “meeting tent”

Exodus 27 ▶ Items for the “meeting tent”

Exodus 28 ▶ The priesthood, the vestments

Exodus 29 ▶ The priesthood and sacrifice

Exodus 30 ▶ Items for worship

Exodus 31 ▶ Sabbath laws

4 **HOW WE WORSHIP IS DETERMINED BY WHO WE WORSHIP** *(As illustrated by the worship of the golden calf)*

When the people saw that Moses was delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, “**Come, make us a god who will go before us;** as for that man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.” Aaron replied, “Take off the golden earrings that your wives, your sons, and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **He received their offering, and fashioning it with a tool, made a molten calf. Then they cried out, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.”** — Exodus 32:1-6

5 **WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM IN WEEK I? God is the one who determines how we worship Him, not us.**

WEEK II

6 WHAT MOVES US TO WORSHIP GOD?

6.1 To show God we **love** Him

6.2 To express **gratitude**

6.3 To ask for **forgiveness**

6.4 Deepened **relationship**

7 TODAY'S CORE MESSAGE:

**GOD IS THE ONE WHO DETERMINES HOW WE WORSHIP HIM,
AND GOD CHOSE SACRIFICE AS THE WAY WE WORSHIP HIM.**

8 IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, TO WORSHIP GOD WAS TO OFFER SACRIFICE. WHAT IS SACRIFICE?

- 8.1 Comes from Latin *sacer* "sacred" and *facere* "to make"
- 8.2 Literally means "to make sacred" or "**to make holy**"

9 TO MAKE HOLY. OKAY, WHAT DOES THE WORD HOLY MEAN?

- 9.1 Biblical definition of the word *holy* means "**to consecrate**"
- 9.2 Biblical definition of the word *consecrate* means "**set apart for God**"

10 WHAT'S NEEDED FOR SACRIFICE?

- 10.1 **Offering:** sacred thing to be offered (animal, food, drink)
- 10.2 **Sacrifice:** sacred person to offer the sacrifice
- 10.3 **Altar:** sacred place to offer the sacrifice
- 10.4 **Consummation:** sacrifice is not complete until it's consumed (by fire, by eating)

11 TWO TYPES OF SACRIFICE

- 11.1 **Clean sacrifice:** the offering of food or drink
- 11.2 **Bloody sacrifice:** the offering of an animal

12 A DISCLAIMER BEFORE WE GET DISTRACTED ...

13 WHY DID GOD CHOOSE SACRIFICE?

- 13.1 It's not because God needs it. **It's because we need it.**
- 13.2 We need physical, incarnational ways to offer ourselves.
- 13.3 For example: show someone you **love** them you **offer** them something (for example: an engagement ring); in other words, we don't just use words and say "I love you" we offer something physical, something sacred
- 13.4 For example: show someone you are **sorry** them you **offer** them something (for example: flowers); in other words, we don't just use words and say "I love you" we offer something physical, something that "costs me"
- 13.5 These things are expensive; they cost something. **We "feel" the offering.**
- 13.6 **4,000 years ago, what was the most valuable thing you had? Animals or food and drink.**
- 13.7 When I give God the "offering" (the thing) I am offering myself to God through the "offering" (the thing)
- 13.8 Psalm 25:1 "To you, O Lord, **I lift up my soul.**" In the Old Testament, **how** did you "**lift up my soul?**"
- 13.9 **When we offer something in sacrifice it is a symbolic gesture of us offering ourselves to God. The "thing" we sacrifice is given to God in our place. And, the offering "costs" us something. We "feel" the offering.**
- 13.10 Isn't this a little extreme? To worship God cannot be less than 100%. (Ex: eggs vs. bacon)
- 13.11 Why sacrifice something physical? Because **we are physical.** To *consecrate* means "**set apart for God**" ... to give everything. Instead of taking my own life, I offer **a symbolic gesture of the fact that I am all in. I am fully invested in this relationship. I am going to hold nothing back in this relationship.**

EXAMPLES OF SACRIFICE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

14 CAIN AND ABEL

The setting: Adam and Eve give birth to Cain and Abel. Later, in thanksgiving Cain **offers sacrifice** (*burnt offerings*) to God in thanksgiving.

- “Cain **brought an offering to the Lord** from the fruit of the ground, while Abel, for his part, brought the fatty portion of the firstlings of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and **his offering.**” — Genesis 4:1-5

15 NOAH

15.1 The setting: After 40 days and 40 nights of continuous rain, God has cleansed the earth. **The very first thing Noah does is offer sacrifice.**

15.2 “Then Noah built an **altar** to the Lord, and choosing from every clean animal and every clean bird, he offered **burnt offerings** on the **altar.**” — Genesis 8:20

16 TODAY'S FIRST READING: ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND SACRIFICE

16.1 From today's first reading: “There you shall offer him up as a **holocaust** (*sacrifice, offering*) on a height that I will point out to you.”

16.2 Part of Genesis 22, but not included in today's first reading: “Abraham said to his servants: ‘Stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over there. **We will worship** and then come back to you.’ So Abraham took the *wood for the burnt offering* and laid it on his son Isaac, while he himself carried the *fire* and the *knife*. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. ‘Father!’ he said. ‘Here I am,’ he replied. Isaac continued, ‘**Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?**’ ‘My son,’ Abraham answered, ‘God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering.’ Then the two walked on together.” — Genesis 22:5-8

17 MOSES, PHARAOH, AND SACRIFICE

17.1 The setting: God has just called Moses. The very first time God asks Moses to go to Pharaoh, what is Moses asked to ask Pharaoh? “Let my people go.” Why? To offer sacrifice.

17.2 “Then you and the elders of Israel will go to the king of Egypt and say to him: The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has come to meet us. So now, let us go a three days' journey in the wilderness **to offer sacrifice** to the Lord, our God.” — Exodus 3:18

18 HOW DOES MOSES RATIFY THE COVENANT (10 COMMANDMENTS) WITH GOD?

18.1 When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the Lord, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the Lord has told us.”

18.2 Moses then wrote down all the words of the Lord and, rising early in the morning, *he built at the foot of the mountain an altar* and twelve sacred stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent young men of the Israelites to **offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls as communion offerings to the Lord**, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar.

18.3 Taking the **book** of the covenant, **he read it aloud to the people**, who answered, “All that the Lord has said, we will hear and do.” **Then he took the blood and splashed it on the people**, saying, “**This is the blood of the covenant** which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.” — Exodus 24:3-8

19 SEE ANY SIMILARITIES?

19.1 What's the first thing Moses did? Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people.

What's the first part of Mass? We read from the "book of the covenant" — the Bible.

19.2 What's the second thing that happened? The people responded: "All that the Lord has said, we will hear and do." **What follows our reading of the Bible (and the homily)? We all stand for the Creed, where in a sense we say: "All that the Lord has said, we will hear and do."**

19.3 What's the next thing Moses did? He took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, "**This is the blood of the covenant** which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

At every Mass the priest (the "new" Moses) says: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

20 REMEMBER WHAT WE SAID EARLIER

20.1 The word "**sacrifice**" literally means "to make sacred" or "**to make holy**"

20.1 **Offering:** sacred thing to be offered (animal, food, drink)

21 THE SACRIFICE AND THE MASS

21.1 Fr. Michael, standing at the Altar, takes the paten with the bread and holds it slightly raised above the Altar, saying: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread **we offer you:** fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

We all reply: Blessed be God for ever.

21.2 Fr. Michael then takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the Altar with both hands, saying: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine **we offer you:** fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

We all reply: Blessed be God for ever.

21.3 Extending his hands, Fr. Michael says: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), **that my sacrifice and yours** may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

We all reply: May the Lord **accept the sacrifice at your hands** for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

22 NEXT WEEK

- If sacrifice is how we worship God, what is "**the**" sacrifice of the Old Testament?
The Passover of Exodus, chapter 12