



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

04/24/2016

This week we reach the fifth and final sacrifice detailed in Leviticus 6:1-7—the *asham* or guilt offering. This offering talks about making restitutions for wrongs against God and neighbor. However, something more needs to be present.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read Leviticus 5:14-6:7. What sins are described in Leviticus 6:1-7? Why do our sins against neighbor impact our relationship with God?
2. How should an individual's understanding of and relationship with God impact their relationship with their neighbor? How has your understanding of God impacted your relationship with others?
3. Sacrifices in the Old Testament possess no magical power that produces forgiveness, or forces God to forgive. Based on Psalm 40:6-8 and 51:15-17 why is the person's attitude and heart important?
4. Jeremiah 31:31-34 talks about the law of God written on an individual's heart. What does this look like?
5. What does the internalization of the law upon the individual's heart in Jeremiah 31:31-34 result in? Consider also Deuteronomy 30:6-10.

6. Read Luke 19:1-11. There is no mention of a command to make repayment. Why do you think Zacchaeus responds in this manner? Based on the limited description, what attitude characterizes his oath?

7. God calls for obedience, but this is never empty or ritualistic. How does love factor into this? How do you develop a love of God that it drives your actions? (Ephesians 3:14-19; Matthew 22:34-40)

8. If you are a Christian, do you find joy in following Jesus and serving your neighbor? How about loving and forgiving others?

9. The motivation to love and forgive are built upon God's initial act of love and forgiveness toward us (Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:13). Do you feel this concept has been integrated into your faith and life?

10. Several testimonies this week shared the long process of their journey in a relationship with God. Baptism, while still a command, is a joyful response to that relationship. Is the type of response more important than the timing? Why or why not?

11. It's important to allow time for the process, but process can become an excuse. What is one thing in your relationship with God that you've been putting off?

MOVING FORWARD

Faith is a process and our relationship with God can take time. However, we're challenged to actively pursue this relationship. This week, spend time in prayer and reading the Bible as active ways to pursue God and gain a deeper understanding of his love and forgiveness.