

Brokenness * Psalm 51:17 * John Erwin * June 7, 2009

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Intro... Last week we touched on the fact that Paul was poured out like a drink offering. He was not only sacrificing but he himself was a sacrifice. We know the sacrificial system was a “type” of Christ in the OT. It pointed us towards our need for a Savior, which we celebrated through communion this morning. But what kind of sacrifices is God looking for from us today? We travel back to David’s life to look at one verse that has a profound effect on how we are to live.

Proposition: What kind of sacrifice does God want from us? It is wrapped up in the word *brokenness*.

I. Context

A. David writes this psalm after his confession to Nathan about his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. It is one of the 7 poems or penitential psalms that he wrote: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 (NASB study Bible)

B. David knows God wants something more from him. God didn’t want...

1. A perfunctory act of sacrifice

- He is not talking about a physical animal sacrifice. (v. 16)
- *Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and meal offering Thou has not desired; burnt offering and sin offering Thou has not required.*
- Sacrifice: The surrender or destruction of something valued for the sake of something else.
- Remember by law there could be no sacrifice for adultery or murder because it was punishable by death.
- David would gladly give 100 animal sacrifices to God, if it would make things right!
- We deserve death too...nothing we can do!
- God doesn’t want **ritual** without **repentance**

2. A mere acknowledgement of sin

- Intellectual assent rarely produces life change

3. An admission of guilt without a heart change.

- God wants our heart!
- Does He have your heart or just your head?

C. What God desires (finds pleasure in) is a broken spirit reflected in a contrite heart!

1. *Broken*:

- *shaw bar*: to burst, crush, destroy; shatter
- Breaking a stick
- Seems contrary to popular psychology. Don't crush the spirit.
- God wants you to admit you are incapable of living life apart from Him. He wants to destroy that proud and independent spirit.
- **Give up!** Quit giving excuses;

2. *Contrite*:

- To collapse, beat to pieces: crushing something into powder
- Illustration: Humpty Dumpty...Only God can put you back together again.
- Remember: David's sin was such that he needed the forgiveness of the priest to be welcomed back into the assembly and offer a "sin or burnt offering".
- The sacrifice was bound, was bled, was burnt; so the penitent heart is bound by convictions, bleeds in contrition, and then burns in holy zeal against sin and for God. (Matthew Henry's commentary)
- The arrogant Pharisees in Jesus' day mocked the contrite publican...an admitted sinner. **Luke 18:9-14**
- **Give in!** God wants all of you

II. Why does God want broken people?

A. Brokenness reflects dependence

1. In willing submission to His will, not mere compliance.
2. ¹⁷*I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice. (The Message)*

3. Song: There is none like you
4. Mark 10:18 None good but God. He was substantiating His lordship
5. Illustration: With your children. Capture their hearts after they have been defiant.
6. I can't do this without you. You aren't arrogant, you are humble in admission of your need.
7. **God is Sovereign king**

B. Brokenness requires healing

1. Is. 53:6...By his wounds you were healed.
2. Our life is broken by sin, wound that only He can heal.
3. If God has a sign outside His Dr.'s office, it might say *I can't fix it, until it is broken!*
4. **God is the Great Physician**

C. Brokenness reveals repentance...you are truly repentant.

1. Example of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15...he comes to his senses! He turns around!
2. Illustration: Rihanna has this song that's out right now called "Take a Bow." The picture is her boyfriend standing outside her window crying and apologizing for being unfaithful...again. Rihanna is saying that he's putting on a lovely show, but she's not buying it. The line is, "And don't tell me you're sorry 'cause you're not Baby when I know you're only sorry you got caught."
3. **Repentance:** Think of a husband and wife in a car, the wife, being the navigator, tells her husband to turn right at the next road and by mistake, he turns left. When he realizes what he has done, he says to his wife, "I'm sorry dear, I went the wrong way." But if that is all he does, it isn't enough. His saying sorry isn't getting them any closer to where they want to be; it isn't even stopping them from getting further away. To get where they want to be, he needs to stop the car, turn it around, and go back on to the correct road that his wife told him to take in the first place.
4. **God is the ultimate High Priest**

III. What does it look like? God contrasts broken people with proud people!

Nancy DeMoss has done a masterful job of comparing proud people with Broken People. I have used her study many times when reflecting on my own life especially. I looked at her list again last night. Let me share just a few...

- A. Broken people are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need; proud people are self-righteous and focus on the failures of others. **I John 1:8...if we say we have no sin**
- B. Broken people are **compassionate**...they forgive because they know how much they have been forgiven. Proud people have a **critical** spirit...they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope. **Matt 7:1 Do not judge, lest you be judged yourself!**
- C. BP yield their rights and are meek. PP assert their rights and are demanding. (Are you high maintenance?) **Phil. 2:3 Nothing from selfishness.**
- D. BP are humbled by how very much they have to learn; PP feel confident in how much they know. **I Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He might exalt you in the proper time!**
- E. BP are concerned with being **real** and what God thinks; PP are concerned with being **respectable** and care what other people think. **I Sam. 16:7 Man looks at the outward appearance, God looks at the heart!**
- F. BP are grieved over the **cause** of their sin; PP concerned over the **consequences** of their sin! **Psalms 51:4-5 He knows he has sinned against God and v. 5 indicates that he is aware that he has a sin nature "born"**
- G. BP sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and want His filling; PP don't think they need revival, but are sure everyone else does! **Psalms 119:88 Revive me according to thy loving kindness, so that I may keep the testimony of thy mouth.**

Application: What do you want in your life? Come up for the handout and get alone with God this week.