

The Sacrifice of Faith (Hebrews 13:10-19)
Living by Faith pt. 7
Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Living by faith calls for a life of sacrifice, where we offer our sacrifices to God by faith. The sacrifices of faith include releasing our reputation to follow Jesus, offering God our praise, proclaiming our witness to the world, rendering our service to other people, and lifting up our prayers to God.

OPENING

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “altar”?

- What things have you sacrificed for an important priority in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Hebrews 4:14; 6:19; 10:19; and 13:10. What do “we have” as Christians according to these verses?

- An altar is a place where sacrifices are offered to God. Since Christians do not have a literal temple (we are God’s temple), how would you describe this altar?

- According to Pastor Tim, Judaism was a legally protected religion in the ancient Roman Empire when the book of Hebrews was written. However, Christianity was not legally protected. Given this fact, what kinds of experiences do you think would have caused these Jewish Christians to consider returning to Judaism? What does Hebrews 13:15 urge them to do?

- Read Hebrews 13:14. Then read 11:10, 11:27, 12:22, and 12:27. After reading these verses, what is “the city that is to come” referring to? What does this mean about how we should view our own “city” (government)?

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- Read Psalm 141:2 and Revelation 5:8. Both of these passages picture our prayers as a sacrifice offered on an altar. How is prayer a sacrifice? What do these verses imply about how God treats our prayers?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What part of your reputation do you hold on to the most tightly? What holds you back from releasing your reputation? Spend time in prayer this week with open hands, symbolic of releasing what other people think of you.
- With Thanksgiving on Thursday, consider how you might turn this holiday into a “sacrifice of praise.” To praise someone is to talk about their excellence, greatness, and goodness. Come up with a plan to talk about God’s excellence, greatness, and goodness.

PRAYER REQUESTS