

## The Power of Offering, Hector Ramos, Casa de Dios

Gen 2.16	<p><sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”</p>	<p>What does it really mean to eat or not to eat from the fruit?          What is the context of the commandment? How many trees could he eat from?          What is the type of offering here?          What was the FIRST thing that the woman did?</p>	<p>Our <b>obedience to the word of God is key</b>. Otherwise we will LISTEN to other voices and SEE/MEDITATE on other things (forbidden fruit)          The tree of knowledge of good and evil. Of everything God has given us we give back to Him. We do not eat that fruit.</p>
Gen 4.3	<p><sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.</p>	<p>Why was Cain’s offering rejected while Abel’s was accepted?          What was the result of Cain’s disobedience?          What do we learn from the ways of the Lord from this passage?</p>	<p>Cain wanted to satisfy God’s commandment in his own way. Abel was FIRST to sacrifice to Him, Abel was waiting for the FIRSTBORN of the flock. Abel sacrifice following God’s WAYS.</p>
Gen 8	<p><sup>15</sup> Then God spoke to Noah, saying, <sup>16</sup> “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup> Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that <i>is</i> with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”  <sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart <i>is</i> evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.</p>	<p>What was the Lord’s commandment? Was Noah asked to sacrifice? What is special about Noah’s sacrifice? What is God’s response? In what way is it merciful?</p>	<p>He told him to multiply. He was starting again with Noah. A NEW BEGINNING.          Noah’s FIRST act in this new dimension was to sacrifice unto God. God’s response was of MERCY. He saw Noah’s heart and did not count it against him.</p>
Gen 22.2	<p><sup>2</sup> Then He said, “Take now your son, your only <i>son</i> Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”</p>	<p>Is this the only offering that Abraham gives to God? What is the meaning of this offering? What are the results of the obedience to the offering?</p>	<p>No. He had sacrificed before but not in this way.          Ultimate obedience: Abraham’s surrender of God’s miracle in his life for God Himself. God is more important than Isaac. <b>It is impossible for Abraham to imagine the extent of blessing that this act of obedience brings to him.</b></p>
1 Sam 1	<p><sup>11</sup> And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”</p>	<p>How did Hanna suffer for barrenness? How did she overcome her barrenness by faith? How did the Lord reward her?</p>	<p>Like Abraham, Hanna surrenders a son: the miracle of the Lord. She says “your Kingdom FIRST” – If you give me a son I will give it to you. The Lord wanted a consecrated prophet Samuel. Hanna’s faith touched God’s plan and got the miracle. She had 5 more children after Samuel. Samuel</p>

			became a strong deliverer of Israel.
2 Sam 24	<sup>24</sup> But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels <sup>[e]</sup> of silver for them. <sup>25</sup> David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.	How did David humble himself doing this offering?	By purchasing the field from a non-Jew who was offering to him as a gift.
Matthew 26	<sup>6</sup> And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured <i>it</i> on His head as He sat <i>at the table</i> . <sup>8</sup> But when His disciples saw <i>it</i> , they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to <i>the poor</i> .” <sup>10</sup> But when Jesus was aware of <i>it</i> , He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. <sup>11</sup> For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. <sup>12</sup> For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did <i>it</i> for My burial. <sup>13</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”	Why is this offering important? Why was this offering rejected by the disciples?	The woman was led by the Spirit to give honor to Jesus and prepare Him for His sacrifice. She sacrificed much for she recognized how much He deserved. The disciples were blind to this extravagant act of worship and a sacrifice they could not understand. Carnal mindsets always reject extravagant worship of Jesus Christ.
John 12	Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. <sup>4</sup> But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s <i>son</i> , who would betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii <sup>[a]</sup> and given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.	Why was Mary’s act so important? Why was Jesus anointed twice? Why did not the disciples (Judas Iscariot) learnt from one anointing to the other? Why did Jesus allow a thief in the midst of the disciples?	A woman’s hair is considered her glory. Mary was putting all human glory at the feet of Jesus. A prophetic act of preparation for His suffering. The spirit of the thief is the spirit of greed. It refuses to give to God what is His. That mindset cannot understand giving Jesus all the glory, and sacrificing our all for Him: extravagant worship.
Mat 26	<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.	Why did Judas betray Jesus? What was his relationship with money? What was his real problem?	Here the offering goes to Judas. Unfortunately his final sorrow finds no true repentance and ends committing suicide. Judas never recognized Jesus as Lord. <b>He never got the revelation.</b>
Acts 5	<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. <sup>2</sup> And he kept back <i>part</i> of the proceeds, his wife also being aware <i>of it</i> , and brought a certain part and laid <i>it</i> at the apostles’ feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back <i>part</i> of the price of the land for yourself? <sup>4</sup> While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” <sup>5</sup> Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last.	What was the context of this story? Why did Ananias and Sapphira want to lie about the offering? Why was it a mortal sin?	Brothers were open and giving sacrificially to the Lord. There was a holy atmosphere of sacrifice for the Kingdom of God. Satan lied to them again (Genesis). They lacked discernment. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous and good before men. They wanted to be part of the worship (sacrifice) group but doing false worship (sacrifice)

Phil 4	<p>Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent <i>aid</i> once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things <i>sent</i> from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.</p>	<p>Why is this pioneering church so important?          What was Paul's mindset?          Was he directed by greed? What is the declaration that follows the act of obedience in this case?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Philippians are the <b>FIRST</b> to get the revelation about sowing.</li> <li>2) They know that there is a <b>fruit that God</b> will give them.</li> <li>3) Paul wants to give them that fruit.</li> <li>4) The sacrifice is described a sweet-smelling aroma (reference to Noah's and Christ's sacrifice).</li> <li>5) They position themselves to receive a <b>declaration of God by Paul</b></li> </ol>
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Structure of the offering: 1. Commandment , 2. Obedience, 3. Declaration