What Goes on God's Altar? — Five Offerings for a Holy People

Disciple copy · Jail Ministry · Pleasant Springs Church

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read this lesson online: https://ps-church.com/discipleship/jail-ministry/what-goes-on-the-altar

The whole lesson in one sentence

➤ I can't bring a bull into a cell — but I can bring all five _____ from right here. Jesus already _____ for sin, so I bring them because I _____ to Him.

Words to know

- **Altar** — a raised table where gifts were given to God.
- **Offering** — a gift to God that costs you something. In Hebrew it means "bring _____."
- **Holy** — set apart for God, belonging to Him.
- **Confess** — to say out loud what is true about what you did.
- **Restore** — to give back what you took.

Who wrote it, and who heard it first

Moses wrote Leviticus for **Israel** — slaves just set free from Egypt, camped at Mount Sinai. God said, *"I'm moving in."* Leviticus is the handbook for living next door to a _____ God.

> **Leviticus 1:2 (ESV)** — "When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD,"
>
> **Leviticus 1:3 (ESV)** — "he shall offer a male without blemish."

"Without blemish" means my _____, not my leftovers.

The five offerings — five hands

1. The burnt offering — ALL OF ME *(both hands up)*

> **Leviticus 1:9 (ESV)** — "the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD."
>
> **Romans 12:1 (ESV)** — "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Nothing held back. Today I am a _____ sacrifice.

2. The grain offering — MY WORK *(hands kneading)*

> **Leviticus 2:13 (ESV)** — "with all your offerings you shall offer salt."
>
> **Philippians 4:18 (ESV)** — "the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God."

Paul was in _____ when he got that gift. God called a gift to a prisoner a "fragrant offering."

> **Colossians 4:6 (ESV)** — "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,"

3. The peace offering — PEACE *(handshake)*

A meal with God. Its Greek name means "the sacrifice of _____."

> **Hebrews 13:15–16 (ESV)** — "let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
>
> **Matthew 5:23–24 (ESV)** — "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother,"

4. The sin offering — I CONFESS *(hand on heart)*

The person laid a _____ on the animal's head: *"This one takes my place."*

> **Hebrews 10:12 (ESV)** — "when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,"
>
> **Hebrews 10:18 (ESV)** — "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."

My time in here does not _____ for my sin before God. Jesus paid it all.

> **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** — "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

5. The guilt offering — I MAKE IT RIGHT *(hand held out)*

> **Leviticus 6:4–5 (ESV)** — "he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt."
>
> **Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)** — "when his soul makes an offering for guilt,"

Jesus became our _____ offering. I make things right the _____ way — through my lawyer, the court, or the chaplain.

The five offerings at a glance

Offering	Then — in Leviticus	Now — what I bring
1. Burnt	The whole animal goes up	My whole self, every day
2. Grain	Fine flour, oil, salt	My work, my gifts, my words
3. Peace	A shared meal, a thank-you	Praise out loud, peace with people
4. Sin	A hand on the animal's head	Confession — Jesus already paid
5. Guilt	Give it back, plus a fifth	Making things right, the right way

What does NOT go on the altar

> **Malachi 1:8 (ESV)** — "When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil?"
>
> **1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)** — "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,"

God doesn't want my leftovers or a show. He wants _____.

A holy people today

> **1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)** — "you were ransomed … with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."
>
> **Colossians 1:21–22 (ESV)** — "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,"

"Blameless" is the same word as "without _____." God uses the word for the perfect offering for **me.**

> **1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)** — "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,"
>
> **1 Peter 2:5 (ESV)** — "to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

I am a priest now. My bunk can be an _____.

The one hand I will work on this week:

Questions to think about

1. Before today, did I think I had anything to give God? What do I think now?
2. Which of the five hands is easiest for me? Which is hardest?
3. How does it feel to hear God call me "blameless"?
4. What is one good thing I could do for somebody in here this week?

Closing prayer

Father, we come with empty hands. We don't have much to give. But You don't want our leftovers — You want us. So here we are. All of us.

Thank You that Jesus was the perfect offering, without blemish, and that He paid for our sin once and for all. Thank You that because of Him, You call us holy and blameless. Help us believe it.

Take our work, our words, and our thanks. Give us peace with You and with the people around us. Help us tell You the truth, and show us how to make things right the right way. Make us a holy people, right here.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

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