

LEFTOVERS

TEXT: *Leviticus 22:19-24* **Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats. But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the LORD. Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted. Ye shall not offer unto the LORD that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land.**

THESIS: To show that the Lord requires our best not our leftovers.

INTRO.: A. ***I don't like leftovers.*** (There are a few exceptions – pierogies!) Some of you have been eating turkey since Thanksgiving. It was sliced turkey on Thursday, turkey sandwiches on Friday, Turkey casserole on Saturday & tur-key soup on Sunday! (If you don't cover it up it dries out & if you do it stinks!)

B. ***God doesn't like leftovers.*** (There are a few exceptions.) It is amazing what Christians try to pawn off on the Lord.

ILLUS.: Used tea bags for the missionaries. 3 legged chairs for the church. Dirty toys for the church nursery. Worn out clothing for the poor.

TRANS.: But there is something worse than all of the above & that is ***LEFT OVER GIVING & LEFT OVER LIVING...***

I. **LEFTOVER GIVING:**

A. Tithe Leftovers:

Lev.27:32-33 **And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.**

1. The O.T. principle of the tithe here is that the giver not try to find the sick animals out of the flock to give for sacrifice to the Lord.
2. The believer today is not to give the Lord the "leftover tithe" to the Lord; the tithe should be the ***"first tenth."***

Num.18:13 **And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.**

Deut.18:4 **The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.**

Deut.26:2 **That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.**

ILLUS.: Someone asks, do I tithe from the net or the gross? Do you pay Uncle Sam taxes on the net or the gross? Should the Govt. get better treatment than the Lord? Praise the Lord for the tithers in our church; they keep the ministry alive!

3. Jesus has something to say about tithe leftovers.

Mt.23:23 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

ILLUS.: The scribes & Pharisees were so precise about their tithing that they even tithed the spices they used in their food! They tithed everything – & Jesus commended them for that – but they failed in more important duties. *Notice that the Lord accepted their tithes, but He wanted more!*

B. Offering Leftovers:

Deut.15:19-21 *All the firstling males that come of thy herd and of thy flock thou shalt sanctify unto the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work with the firstling of thy bullock, nor shear the firstling of thy sheep. Thou shalt eat it before the LORD thy God year by year in the place which the LORD shall choose, thou and thy household. And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.*

1. Believers are not to imitate or emulate the Pharisees & count out the tithe to the penny & stop their giving there.
2. The N.T. Christian is to follow the example of the O.T. believer & give God tithes **and offerings**, & not just "leftovers" or that which is not able to be used for anything else. Cf. **2 Cor.9:1-7**

ILLUS.: We are talking about sacrificial giving & faith giving, beyond the tithe. We are speaking about seeing needs & meeting them; of stepping out on faith believing God can bless your sacrifice & honor your faith. K___ F_____’s testimony Thanksgiving eve was not boasting, but to **"provoke unto...good works."** He spoke of losing over \$60,000 w/one customer who declared bankruptcy & then, by faith, daring to increase his giving. God honored it & blessed it & rewarded his faith.

C. Love Gift Leftovers:

Mal.1:8 & 13 *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.*

1. On Thanksgiving eve I spoke on "Thanks + Giving = Thanksgiving."
2. In the text in **Phil.4:10-19** the believers saw Paul's need & responded again & again with love gifts, which made Paul & them thankful.

James 2:14-17 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

ILLUS.: Love gifts should be just that, gifts which express in a tangible way, our love the Lord by giving in His Name to someone or their ministry.

II. LEFTOVER LIVING:

A. Talent Leftovers:

2 Sam.24:24 *And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

Ecc.9:10 *Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

1. It seems that many believers give their best to their boss & whatever talents they have leftover, they offer to the Lord.
2. Other believers have used their talents in the world, but refuse to use them for the Lord, or just offer Him the leftovers, serving Him half-heartedly.

ILLUS.: Some of you have accounting ability which we could use here. Some have great marketing skills which could be applied to the Lord's work. Some have great skills in sales, computers, mechanics, etc. which God could use. But He has to be satisfied w/leftovers.

B. Time Leftovers:

1. End-of-day devotions.
- 2.

Ps.5:3 *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*

Mk.1:35 *And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

3. End-of-week activity.

1. It is amazing that anything gets done for the Lord, because believers only donate precious little of their time to the Lord's work.
 2. They come to church if there is no ball game, no yard work, if no relatives happen to visit, no interference in schedule, no sickness in the home, it's not too hot or cold...
4. End-of-life service.
1. Some feel that they will one day have time to serve the Lord; when they retire, when they are not physically able to work, etc.
 2. Praise the Lord if He calls you late-in-life & you yield (as Paul), but if possible you need to start serving him as a child (as Samuel).
 3. The Lord isn't looking for burned-out believers to enlist in His service, but robust believers who can give Him their best, not leftovers.

Eccl.12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

CONCL.: I think it is safe to say that God doesn't appreciate **LEFTOVERS** any more than we do. He will take what He can get, but would prefer that we give Him our best, not just **LEFTOVERS!**