

THE SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Bragging on Christ every chance we get.

Lesson 3

Through him then 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.

Hebrews 13:15-16 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION: Welcome once again to our bible study series, Priests in Blue Jeans. We are super excited that you have opened your spirit up to be a part of a movement that we hope will sweep across the world! In this study we are going to get our praise on.

- Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's truths to your spirit.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Do you have a favorite worship song? If so, what is it about the song that speaks to your heart? (Maybe you can sing it to the Lord right now!)

Bible Study Questions:

- Read the scriptural reference at the top of the page and answer the questions below.
1. What two things are a new covenant priests exhorted to do when offering up spiritual sacrifices that please God, according to these verses?

The Old Covenant priest would take an animal outside the city gates (outside the walls of the ancient city) to be slaughtered as a sin sacrifice. In chapter 13, the writer points out that Christ went outside the city gates to be sacrificed on the cross for the sins of the world. It's for this very reason that we are to praise our Savior!

2. How often are we to praise Jesus according to these verses?

3. Are there times when praising God can be a “sacrifice” because you are experiencing trials? What benefit comes from praising him during these tough times?

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. **Psalms 103:1-5**

4. List tens things that Jesus has done for you that you can praise him for. These can be spiritual blessings, relational blessings, or even financial blessings.

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

5. Did you notice the mention of doing good and sharing our resources with people in need as an aspect of spiritual worship? We will get to these aspects of spiritual sacrifices in Lesson 5.

CLOSE IN PRAYER: End this study in prayer, praising Jesus for his many blessings in your life. If you're doing this study with others, invite everyone to join in and have a mini praise service!!! Close your praise time by asking Jesus to lead people across your path who you can bless in a tangible way.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE DEPTH

To gain a greater understanding of our High Priests, Jesus and his priesthood you may want to delve into the book of Hebrews. This book is rich with analogy and comparison.

In short, the book of Hebrews was written to a Jewish audience who had come to faith in Christ. Hebrews highlights the superiority of Christ as our High Priest, the grace of God over the laws of Moses, and the New Covenant priesthood over the Old Covenant priesthood.

Understanding these truths will give you a greater motivation to serve as one of his royal priest, whose calling is to do our part to build his spiritual house (the Church).

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,"^[a] bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Hebrews 3:1-6 (NIV)