



## Living a Life of Blessing #1 | September 11, 2016

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Icebreaker: What are some of the main reasons we hold on to stuff that we don't really use or need?

### READ MALACHI 1:6-14.

1. God (through the prophet Malachi) takes the Israelite priests to task. What is His criticism - what is wrong with their offerings? How did God describe these offerings?
2. According to Leviticus 22:17-25, what are God's general requirements for offerings?
3. According to Leviticus 22:29-33 Why are proper offerings important to God? What do you learn about His character from this passage?
4. Why do you think the Israelites were bringing damaged items for their sacrifices? Why would they even bother?
5. How do offerings and the motivation behind them reflect one's view of God?
6. APPLY: How might we have a deflated view of God? Practically speaking, how can we elevate our view of His holiness and greatness?

### JESUS, THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD

God set up the sacrificial system in the Old Testament partly to point to the perfect, once for all sacrifice, Jesus Christ.

7. Read Hebrews 9:14 and 1 Peter 1:18-19 and describe what Jesus did.

Theologian R. C. Sproul explains in his book *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*:

*The sinlessness of Christ does not merely serve as an example to us. It is fundamental and necessary for our salvation. Had Christ not been the "lamb without blemish" He not only could not have secured anyone's salvation, but would have needed a savior Himself. The multiple sins Christ bore on the cross required a perfect sacrifice. That sacrifice had to be made by one who was sinless.*

## STEWARDSHIP

8. Describe the difference in attitude between an owner and a steward towards their possessions.

9. Read Romans 12:1.

Now describe someone who sees him/herself as a steward of even their *selves, their body, their very life*. How would he/she act or think differently?

10. In Romans 12:1, Paul refers to the mercies of God. What are they? How do the mercies of God transform your heart? How do the mercies of God affect your worship and giving?

11. APPLY: The problem with the Israelites in Malachi's day was not that they weren't giving, it was their low view of God. This week, how will your worship and generosity reflect how much you value God?

## PRAY

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