

FAMILY MATTERS #14 - OFFERING OF THE FAMILY

GENESIS 35:1-15

An altar is a consecrated place to worship and praise God. It is for offering oneself to God and meeting with Him.

I. THE HISTORIC ALTAR

- A. Arise, Go up to Bethel (House of God), and Dwell there
 - 1. Jacob arose - a clean house (vs. 2-4)
 - 2. Jacob went up - a protected house (vs. 5-6)
 - 3. Jacob dwelt - a blessed house (vs. 9-15)
- B. Build an altar in your heart when God speaks to you
- C. The gifts and altars / temples and gold MATT. 23:16-22
 - 1. They had the wrong idea of which was important
 - 2. Trying to "pay off" God (MATT. 7:21-23)
 - 3. Holding back part of the price ACTS 5:1-5
- D. Freewill and Obligatory Offerings
 - 1. 3 Freewill (Sweet Savor)- Burnt, Meal, and Peace
 - 2. 2 Obligatory - Sin and Trespass (guilt to man)

II. THE CHURCH ALTAR

- A. The altar is not a confessional (for backsliders only)
 - 1. Go to PRAY! Go to PRAISE! Go to SEEK HIS FACE!
 - 2. Repentance also happens away MATT. 5:23-24
- B. Christians expected at altar / Unusual to be absent
 - 1. Is your ALL on the altar? (MATT. 23:19)
 - 2. A church praying for Peter (ACTS 12:12)
 - 3. Can you see them at the altar?

III. THE FAMILY ALTAR

- A. Build an "altar" (not of wood or stone but of hearts)
 - 1. The family must meet with God together
 - 2. Family devotions are not just for struggles
- B. Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, discussion, singing
 - 1. Families do these different ways - JUST DO IT
 - 2. Prayer is key: Pray about something specific

IV. THE PERSONAL ALTAR

- A. Find an altar for yourself (couch, bedroom, garage)
 - 1. In this place you PLAN and MUST meet with God
 - 2. The blessings of the others derive from this one
- B. Praise God for speaking from His Word (all altars)
- C. The New Testament confirms/commands this (HEB. 13:15)

MATT. 7:21-23 - "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

MATT. 23:19 - "Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?"

ACTS 12:12 - "And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying."

HEB. 13:15 - "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."