

LESSON - 7

MEAT (MEAL) OFFERING

Reading : Lev. 2 ; 6 : 14 - 23

Memory verses: Eph. 1 : 4 - 6

Theme: To consecrate ourselves to holiness keeping in mind the significance of meal offering and the example of holy life that Jesus Christ offered in the presence of God.

Introduction: It is sin that separates man from God. What is it that God desires from man? (1 Peter : 15,16). We see the example of a holy life in the life of Jesus Christ. Meal offering represents the holy and consecrated life that Jesus presented before man and God.

MATERIALS FOR THE OFFERING

Meal offering is a sacrifice without blood and three types of materials can be used for the offering.

1. Fine flour: It points to the purity and meekness of Jesus Christ whose nature does not contain any anger or guile (1 Pet. 2 : 21- 23)

2. Unleavened cakes and wafers baked with oil: The cakes and wafers are made with fine flour. Fine flour represents purity of nature and oil represents Holy Spirit. There should not be any leaven (guile or wickedness) in the offering.

3. Green ear of corn dried by fire : Jesus Christ, the good corn of wheat, was baked in the fire of the wrath of God and became a sweet savour offering.

MATERIALS TO BE ADDED

1. **Oil:** Olive oil was poured on the material being offered. In case of cakes and wafers, they were baked in oil, and cut into small pieces. Oil was then poured on them. In other words, the offering should be covered with oil. Oil represents Holy Spirit. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1 : 18-20). He was filled with the Holy Spirit before His public ministry

(Matt. 3 : 16-17; Luke 4 : 1). His ministry was in the Holy Spirit (Acts 4 : 27 ; 10 : 38). His death and His resurrection were by the Holy Spirit (Heb. 9; 14, Rom. 1 : 5 - 6). Lives of believers also must be like this. We must imbibe the purity of Jesus Christ in our lives. Just as the meat offering was soaked in oil, our lives and services should be filled with the Holy Spirit.

2. Frankincense: Frankincense is sprinkled on the sacrificial material. When it is burned in fire sweet smell fills the air. Jesus Christ walked through villages and towns and preached the gospel and healed all manner of sickness (Matt. 9: 35). His fame spread fast all over Galilee (Mark 1: 28). He spread the sweet savour of Joy and healing all over the land. God's children should disseminate sweet savour of God in their surroundings, too. Paul declares : We are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved and in them that perish (2 Cor. 2 : 14 - 15). Do you spread the sweet savour of Christ?

3. Salt: Salt is a symbol of the covenant (Num. 18 : 19). Moreover, salt is a purifier and a preserving agent. One of the main attributes of salt is that it adds flavour. Jesus cleansed many sinners and made them acceptable to society. For example: (1) Samaritan woman (John 4 : 5 - 42), (2) Sinner woman (Luke 7 : 36 - 50) and (3) Zacchaeus (Luke 19 : 1 - 10). He gave comfort and joy to many by His sweet words and loving actions (Luke 4 : 22 ; John 7 : 46). All believers must endeavour to add flavour to others by their words and deeds (Col. 4 : 6). Remember the words of Jesus ; You are the salt of the earth (Matt. 5 : 13).

MATERIAL WHICH ARE FORBIDDEN FOR USE

1. Leaven: Wickedness, hypocrisy and false doctrines are equated to leaven in the Word of God (1 Cor. 5 : 8 ; Luke 12 : 1, Matt. 16 : 12). There was no trace of any such leaven in Christ. Children of God must observe holiness in their lives. We must be examples to other in our words, deeds love, faith and purity. Hypocrisy should not have any place in us. We must hold fast to the true doctrines of the Word of God.

2. Honey: Honey represents the natural sweetness. When Jesus lived on the earth, He had no form nor comeliness and no beauty to be desired. He was despised and rejected by men and a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. (Is. 53 : 2 -3). Let us not desire external comeliness, but let our inner beauty be pleasing as a meal offering before the God (1 Pet. 3 : 3 - 4, 1 Tim. 2 : 10).

SPECIALITIES OF THE MEAL OFFERING

1. Meal offering was a bloodless sacrifice. Sacrifices with blood show what Jesus Christ has done for us through His death. But the bloodless meal offering shows what He has done for us before His death through His pure life. It shows the blessing that flow towards us from his spotless life.

2. Material offered for this sacrifice are made from fine flour, produced by labour of man. Hence meal offering points to the necessity of making diligent efforts towards holiness in life. (2 Tim. 4 : 4- 7, 2 : 3- 6 ; 2 The. 2 : 14 - 15; 1Cor. 15 : 58).

3. Only a part of meal offering is burned while the remaining is eaten by the priest. The worshiper does not eat out of his offering. God pleased by the meal offering presented by the pure life of Jesus Christ and the redeemed believers who are priests also become partakers of the offering.

Meal offering teaches us many spiritual lessons touching our practical lives. We have to present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (Rom. 12 : 1). Let us crucify our fleshly and selfish desires. Let us dedicate ourselves in the presence of God to live a life filled with the Holy Spirit, spreading the sweet savour of Christ in the world and imparting flavour to other people. Let our lives also be a sweet savour offering to God as the life of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Which are the materials used for meal offering ? What do they signify ?
2. What are the items to be added in meal offering ? Explain the spiritual meaning of each.
3. What are the specialities of meal offering ?
4. What things are forbidden in meal offering ? What do they point to?
5. Describe what you have benefited from the study of the various aspects of meal offering.