

The Need to Respond

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 2.

B. The need to be loved is basic to human nature.

C. The burnt offering teaches us that there is no way of having this need recognized unless it is meant in the death of Jesus Christ.

II. The cereal offering.

A. The theme of bread is key to the cereal offering.

B. The cereal offering is a picture of humanity that only finds its perfection in Jesus Christ.

1. It only is related to Christians who feed on the humanity of Jesus given to us.

2. It looks to Christ living in a person—His perfect humanity given to man.

3. As man draws on Christ's life by faith, he is privileged to give that perfect humanity back to God.

C. What was always included with it.

1. Oil.

a. This is a type of the Holy Spirit.

b. The Spirit is needed for the empowerment of life.

2. Frankincense: perfume.

a. This is something that God primarily wants—something inward.

b. This is what delights and pleases God—a thankful, obedient heart. (Psalm 69:30, Hebrews 13:15)

3. Salt.

a. This is a preservative.

b. Christians must obey God's will to be an effective preservative.

D. What was not to be offered with the offering.

1. Leaven.

- a. Leaven puffs up.
- b. This is an illustration of pride.

2. Honey.

- a. This is natural sweetness.
- b. God only wants what comes through Jesus Christ, not what is natural to a person.

E. The meal offering is always offered with the burnt offering.

- 1. The burnt offering addresses the need to be loved.
- 2. If God reaches out to a person though, one needs to reach out to Him, which is symbolized in the meal offering.
 - a. Inherent in our humanity is this need to respond.
 - b. As long as there is no response, there can be no progress in love.

Application questions:

1. Explain the cereal offering. What does it mean to you?

2. Which item included or rejected from the offering stands out to you? Explain.

3. What is the relationship between the cereal offering and the burnt offering?
