

Christ in the Sacrifices 15-10-04b

We continue our study. We're now in Leviticus chapter 2, looking at the grain offering, the meal offering, and we recognize that while these were rituals and procedures for Israel, God is speaking to you and me in and through these sacrifices. I mentioned that we're going to have a new memory verse next week and one of two.

It is going to be Romans chapter 15 and verse 4. Everything that was written in the past, talking about Scripture, everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. That's the new international version rendering. In the King James, it says, for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

But it's an interesting thing because hope is an anticipation of things in the future. It is a confidence that what God has said He will do and what Paul tells us in Romans 15 for is this confidence is based on what was written in the past, what was recorded for us in the past, written in earlier times, and it was written for our instruction. It wasn't just for them.

So these Levitical offerings and all of these details were not just something to keep the Israelites busy. It was written for our instruction and here is the goal. Perseverance and encouragement.

So here's your challenge. Here's your task. This is what I want you to try to do as we go through the grain offering.

See if you can be developing more patience and be more greatly encouraged by what these old dusty folks did with their grain in Leviticus chapter 2. The goal that God put it in our Bible for is that we have more patience, more perseverance, more endurance, and that we'd be encouraged, that we'd be lifted up, that we'd be motivated. And all of that serving the great purpose of hope. Our three great Christian attributes, the things that define us as believers uniquely, are faith, hope, and love.

A lot of people think they have love. A lot of people claim to know about love. A lot of people say all you need is love.

Love is not all you need. I don't care what John Lennon says. I don't care how many times the Beatles sing it at the end.

All you need is love. Well, it's like a little mantra trying to convince you all you need is love. Sorry, no.

You need faith and hope as well. Because your love will perish with the dust from which you were made. It is variable and it is unpredictable because circumstance and human nature are

variable and unpredictable.

Your love is useless and meaningless. It is short-term if it isn't grounded in faith and in hope. Love unaccompanied by faith love that is not informed by hope is fickle.

It is as temporary as everything else that springs from the flesh in this life. So Romans chapter 15 verse 4. Because we know all scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine and for reproof and correction. The Psalmist in Psalm 102 18 says let this be written for a future generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.

102 18 in the Psalms. So this is the reason we are studying this. A companion verse to first to Romans chapter 15 verse 4 is first Corinthians 10 11.

You've heard me quote it many times. I want to be sure you have the reference for it. All these things happened unto them for examples.

King James says in samples. Now all these things happen unto them for in samples and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come. New American standards a little bit more clear.

These things happen to them as an example and they were written for our instruction upon whom the ends of the ages have come. God's purpose is being fulfilled at this time. These examples are instructive.

It teaches. We learn something from it. I like learning by example because it means I don't have to do it myself.

Right? You are not old enough most of you to remember that when film strips and film projectors were the latest in media presentation. They used to have films on hygiene and driving too fast and venereal disease and one thing in another and they were all the more scary because of the primitive loop jumping scratchy blurry AM radio quality audio presentation that they evoked but looking at the aftermath on some of these films of a guy and his girlfriend on a motorcycle that ran head-on at a combined speed of 120 miles an hour into the grill of an 18 wheeler. It sticks with you.

I don't have to experience a wreck on a motorcycle to appreciate the danger and the need to be careful because somebody recorded an example for me. Told you before I as a small child without the knowledge of my parents saw a picture of lungs that were taken from a cadaver guy had died of lung cancer. I have never to this day smoked a cigarette and I never will and I credit entirely that single photograph of the black liquid corrupt lungs next to a picture of healthy lungs from a guy who was smoking and couldn't quit.

It's an example and these examples instruct us because we are at a nexus. We are at the crux. We are at the end of the ages as far as God's purpose is concerned.

So that's why we're looking at Leviticus. I know it's rough sledding. I know it's ritual.

I know you think well yeah, but I've got to get up and go live my life and the fact that a bunch of Israelites did this that the other with birds and grain what does it mean? Well, it means a lot and it's here for a reason and God says if you care enough my son if you will receive my words and hide my commandments, these are commandments with thee incline your ear and apply your heart lift up your voice you're going to understand the fear of the Lord and you're going to find the knowledge of God and the knowledge of God that's where wisdom sits. Wouldn't it be great if you had an angle for each decision point in your life and you knew the better thing and the best thing I could do this I could do that but wisdom tells me this is the right path. It's going to be tough.

It may be it's going to require some extra perseverance and some extra diligence and dedication on my part, but this is the best course. Other people don't see it, but I do and I see it because God the Holy Spirit is witnessing with my spirit using the word of God to give me wisdom the Lord Jesus Christ is wisdom and peace and sanctification. He is our atonement.

He is our Passover so all of these things bear So just a little bit of motivation to stick with it because this chapter 2 is the hardest of the offerings Are you up for it? Ready to dive in and figure out what all this grain grinding means. Well, here we go. Leviticus chapter 2 When anyone offers a grain offering to the Lord his offering shall be a fine flour And he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it He shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests one of whom shall take it from him From it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense Notice one of the priests will take from it his handful This handful of fine flour belongs to the priest So you bring this in a bowl Imagine a Fairly large bowl like a kneading bowl where you'd make bread And in this is this offering it's fine flour there's oil and perfume On it just a light touch of frankincense One of the priests is going to reach into it and grab a handful And walk off with it The priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar an offering made by fire a sweet aroma to the Lord so That's one handful goes on the altar.

He gets it from the bowl walks away goes over to the altar Puts it on the fire The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons it is a most holy offering to the Lord made by fire so One handful goes to the Lord all the rest of it goes to the priest What Seems like it ought to be the other way around seems like most of it ought to go the Lord the priest gets one handful But most of the flour goes to the priest Then we have the secondary and subsidiary You know alternate forms if you bring as an offering a grain offering baked in the oven The first one was a bowl of flour This one is baked goods So this is not going to be the powder with oil and frankincense on it This is baked in the oven. It's unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil So it can be cakes or wafers These are different forms this might be rolls versus biscuits in our modern parlance But if your offering is a grain offering baked in a pan it shall be a fine flour unleavened mixed with oil so The ingredients are the same, but the shape is different It can be round it can be pan shaped It can it can be baked over a you know sort of a grill if you will Baked in the oven or baked it fried in a pan You shall break

it in pieces and pour oil on it. It is a grain offering So that's the second form first form the flour itself Pour oil on it frankincense on it.

Take it in there handful on the altar priest gets the rest second one Has three different forms two oven baked forms and one pan fried form same ingredients Just depending on do you have an oven or is all you've got is a pan you might expect that Maybe the the poorer folks don't have an oven or access to an oven and they do all their stuff in a frying pan So that's number two three forms of the second the baked or fried grain offering verse seven And that one by the way is fragmented broken up into pieces And oil is poured on it Verse seven if your offering is a grain offering baked in a covered pan It shall be made of fine flour with oil You shall bring the grain offering that is made of these things to the lord when it is presented to the lord He shall bring it to the altar the priest shall take from the grain offering a memorial portion burn it on the altar It is an offering made by fire a sweet aroma to the lord. This is on the Pattern of the first one he's going to take roughly a handful handful of the broken pieces Something representing a handful out of the totality burn it on the altar It is an offering made by fire a sweet aroma to the lord What is left of the grain offering shall be aaron's and his sons It is most holy of the offerings to the lord made by fire Those are the positive instructions And most of it goes to aaron who here is the high priest in later days when aaron's gone This will be the high priest and his sons. These are the sons of aaron who are actual priests No offering Of grain, which you bring to the lord shall be made with leaven You shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the lord made by fire What is leaven? universally represented in scripture Oh, come on, you can be more convinced than that.

What does leaven represent in scripture? Almost Third time's a charm. What does leaven represent? Sin And sin Just a small portion of it corrupts the whole lump, right? It defines and infects the whole lump so to speak a little leaven leavens the whole lump important concept Remember we were talking earlier about A little sin in the heart. What's the harm? It's victimless.

I just You know pursued a fantasy I had a little imaginary excursion into the realm of sin No harm no foul What do we know about sin through the picture of leaven You let that in It is going to affect and influence other things that formerly didn't have any sin in them As human beings we don't like to think about this and we don't enter it into our calculations But if you for example I'll tell you the thing that horrifies me is I hear people talking about their fantasy life what they think about in their spare time And they figure it's a fantasy. No harm. No, no Nobody's there's no consequence.

It's just something I enjoy. I just like to fantasize about you know wild flings of one kind or another I just Make it up, you know, maybe it's celebrities. Maybe it's people in my periphery or you know Maybe it's some some some activity that I just I just fantasize about And people believe almost universally that if it's just in your head and it's contained in there no problem that Sin is radioactive And abiding it tolerating it encouraging it people try to get into Directed dreaming you kind of know you're dreaming and so you try to make your dream go in certain

directions because you can have guilt-free experiences of a Perverse type There's people who just spend all their time trying to figure out how to get into a dream state where they can do all kinds Of heinous things and then wake up and and there's no penalty Just remember this Levin is the old testament example if it had existed and people had known about it.

I think god would have probably used radioactivity Radiation will destroy biological life And You allow that radiation into your mind and you say well the fantasies are contained in my mind That's the worst place for them. That's where you live that's where your life and your decisions and your thinking abide and when you allow sin in there and Encourage it and follow it and pursue it and feed it It is going to damage it is going to spread it is going to infect This is what scripture says people don't believe that well you go try it We know from observation. We know from experience and we know first and foremost from the clear Unambiguous teaching of the Word of God that if you Allow sin in your heart.

It's a problem if I Allow sin in my heart. God will not hear me shuts down your prayer life Interrupts your fellowship if you ever been in a friendship or a Marriage or a dating relationship or even parents and children, whatever it may be a close relationship that is Defined by bonds of real love and then there is an infraction one person does something harmful or egregious in the eyes of the other person and Now there's a big black elephant in the room Don't walk in and you don't say the things you would usually say you don't confer the hug you would usually hug with you don't there's there's a great dark veil of Something unspoken something unresolved That's what happens when we abide sin in our hearts God will not hear me It needs to be acknowledged it needs to be talked out it needs to be looked at and examined and there needs to be a reconciliation to get past that It's true in human relationships ever more true in spiritual relationships. That's what these offerings reflect So this offering no Leaven nor any honey Well, we'll come back to that No, honey Honey is a magic food Honey is one of the most unique and special Edible substances on the planet.

It has all kinds of amazing properties God says don't be putting that stuff in the grain offering Why? What is the meaning of that Verse 12 as for the offering of the firstfruits you shall offer them to the Lord But they shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma They shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma every offering of your grain offering You shall season with salt You shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering with all your offerings You shall offer salt and notice this is put separate Why didn't he put that up in the beginning when he said pour oil and frankincense on it? No, leaven, no honey, but there better be salt every one of these grain offerings without exception has to be salted Those of us that love salt. I'd love to be the priest. I want to get that big bowl of salted flour Salted bread salted anything Every offering seasoned with salt if you're verse 14 Offering a grain offering of your firstfruits to the Lord you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads of grain Roasted on the fire grain beaten from full heads and you shall put oil on it lay frankincense on it It is a grain offering Then the priest shall burn the memorial portion Part of its beaten grain and part of its oil with all of the frankincense as an offering made by fire to the Lord Interesting little final detail there.

Well, that's all of the instruction in this section on the grain offering. Now you may remember last time that we noticed that there are two sets of instructions for every offering. You remember that? The burnt offering is given in chapter 1 and this primarily focuses on what the offeror is supposed to do and then over in chapter 6:8 through 13 it is the law of the burnt offering for the priest. You can put your finger over in Leviticus chapter 6. And you can see if you've got a New King James like mine that there's a little heading there the law of the burnt offering. Right above verse 8 you see that Leviticus 6:8 The Lord spoke to Moses saying command Aaron and his sons saying this is the law of the burnt offering. On the hearth of the altar all night and you have all of the priestly instructions. This is the priest's portion. Same thing here now with the grain offering it is given to us on the offerer side with the priest's participation in chapter 2. But the law of the grain offering is in chapter 6 verses 14 through 18.

So these are our supplemental instructions with emphasis on the priest. Verse 14 of Leviticus 6. This is the law of the grain offering the sons of Aaron shall offer it on the altar before the Lord. He shall take from it his handful of the fine flour of the grain offering with its oil all the frankincense which is on the grain offering notice. This was a detail at the end of chapter 2 it is now at the beginning of these instructions because you think well if the priest is going to get the rest of this bowl of flour and is going to use it to make food. What about this perfume? Well now we find out that the perfume that is poured on it is only on the handful that is offered to the Lord by fire. The rest of it is not perfumed. He shall take from it verse 15 His handful of fine flour of the grain offering with its oil and all the frankincense which is on the grain offering shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma as a memorial to the Lord. So you can imagine how this would work they're not going to put a lot of frankincense in this. You got a bowl of fine flour you pour the oil on it. It's going to make a little oil puddle there and then you're going to put a few drops of frankincense on then when the priest takes the handful to put on the altar he is going to ensure that the handful he takes has all the frankincense in it. Right put that on the altar the frankincense is going to perfume the smoke which is what incense often does you see the people burning things for incense? You know potpourri candles and whatnot that that's this is the idea the smoke is perfumed with frankincense. The remainder of it Aaron and his son shall eat and unless you like perfume in your bread you'd be grateful, you know they're probably real careful to be sure all of that incense goes into the portion on the fire because they're gonna eat the rest of it. With unleavened bread it shall be eaten in a holy place in the court of the tabernacle of meeting.

They shall eat it. They don't take it home. You know, these guys don't live in the tabernacle precincts or later the temple right? They don't live there. They work there.

They go home, but this bread the portions of these grain offerings doesn't leave the tabernacle the priests eat it in the presence of the Lord. It's a special Fellowship type meal it shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of my offerings made by fire. It is most holy like the sin offering and the trespass offering all the males among the children of Aaron may eat it. Statute forever in your generations concerning the offerings made by fire to the Lord everyone who touches them must be holy. Holy in the sense of being a son of Aaron being a

priest and a male The males alone eat this they don't take it to their families. Don't share it with their kids. It's the males Who are functioning priests? So what do we know about this? Let's go back to the beginning of chapter 2 and see what we can figure out When anyone offers his grain offering to the Lord offering shall be a fine flower right away.

There is a detail Because we've already talked about the relative rarity and scarcity of grain during the wilderness wandering certainly In the land when they become agricultural and it's going to depend on how well the crops do You know There's been famines in the land Jacob and his sons had to go down to Egypt because of a famine Abraham had to move because of a famine the that land Is even in those days was subject to to bad times? Agriculturally, so grain in the land may or may not be scarce, but certainly in the wilderness wanderings it is That's why they had the manna So the grain is scarce enough, but they're going to take some of this grain now and they're going to grind it How do you make flour out of grain? If I handed you some milled Wheat or something right now. How would you turn it into flour? Well, you've got to thresh it and separate out the little internal grains from the husks the chaff, right? It's got to be separated. Then once you get the the good stuff What do you do? Got to grind it, right? What are these people used to grind stuff? the Acme grain grinder that It has got steel teeth and stuff.

These are stone Mortar and pestle type of things, right? there's a cup shaped indentation in a piece of rock and they've got a roundish pear shaped piece of rock and They grind it, right? How do they usually grind flour in order to make bread barley bread wheat bread and so on? They grind it small enough that it will serve as flour It's coarse ground flour and that's good enough for almost all purposes What do you have to do to make fine flour? Keep on a grinding Grind and grind and grind some more. It's like that shoebox project in shop class I sanded and sanded and sanded took it to mr. Maxie not good enough sand it some more Sand it for a week. Take it back.

Not smooth enough sand it some more. This is hand sanding I thought I never was gonna get out of that shoebox alive And I'm so glad my my dad still has it because I put sweat sweat into that silly shoebox and And the sweat was all in the sanding the cutting in the assembly was trivial the sanding nearly killed me Grinding grinding grinding the flour grind it some more grind it some more grind it some more You know who got fine flour in Israel and in the ancient Near East? Kings Kings ate food made out of fine flour Everybody else was content with the coarse flour because it takes four times as long to make fine flour as it does to make coarse flour With that hand grinding. Well, God says when you're gonna bring me a grain offering you bring fine flour So in Complete contrast to chapter one.

What would you say about the level of work required on the part of the offer or a Bullock and a bird Minimal interference you just keep them where the grass is you keep the birds where they can peck and eat bugs and whatever it is these domesticated pigeons and and so on and They largely grow themselves you just sort of manage them into areas where they can eat it doesn't it's not real labor-intensive What about the grain offering here? You've got to either buy it or

harvest it. You've got to thresh it You've got to winnow it you've got to grind it and then you've got to grind and grind and grind and grind and grind It's very labor-intensive If this is from your own field you had to sow it and you had to tend it you had to perhaps irrigate it you had to do all kinds of things to get this grain and Then grind it fine. Then he's going to pour oil on it.

What kind of oil is this? It ain't motor oil. It's not Neats foot oil It's not Wesson oil What is it? Olive oil Olive oil Where does olive oil come from You got to get the olives You got to take the olives to a press and You've got to smash them under great intense pressure and the oil Runs down a channel this by the way They have found the remains of the press in the Garden of Gethsemane in the cave Where the Lord Jesus and his disciples slept that cave is still there and you can see a great square notch in the wall where a end of a beam fit like a 4x4 and then in the middle of the cave floor is the place where the olives were placed and on this beam was a giant stone and this Press the the channels are still there where the olive oil would run down It's why it's called the Mount of Olives The press was there to process the olives that grew on that mountain and that's the cave where the Lord Jesus and his disciples were often to Be found that's where they would sleep when they were in Jerusalem probably Had a relationship with the owner of that of the field at that time so the oil is also the result of work and pressure and refinement and then frankincense now you're a nomadic traveling band of Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years Where do you get your frankincense? You don't walk. It's not like dandelions.

You don't walk out. Oh, well, look at their frankincense Let me just grab a little of this and put into my offering. This stuff is expensive.

It is rare it is also a product of refinement and Processing it's not an easy thing to come by and it is expensive. So this offering Reflects a lot of truths related to Labor this is a An entirely different thing and it's not speaking of atonement. It's not speaking of blood Satisfaction the sin and righteousness and judgment aspect isn't here.

What is this? The easiest way to explain this offering is to go to the New Testament When the Lord Jesus is reclining at dinner and there is a woman who comes and breaks an expensive Alabaster box and pours the perfume on the Lord Jesus feet and Washes his feet with her tears and dries them with her hair. What is that an expression of love? Devotion Appreciation hang the cost you have felt this you come up those of you that are married you come up on an anniversary and You appreciate the person you're married to you come up on a birthday and you appreciate your child or your parent or your sibling or whoever it is and It's it's some sort of special occasion. Maybe it's a graduation or it's a retirement or it's a milestone in life and You just reach for the moon in the gift that you give and and well, it's expensive It costs a lot and you say, you know what? I don't care.

I'll figure out how to pay for it Because I Want to express to this person how much I appreciate them what they mean to me and how much I value this significant milestone That's what this offering is to God and not just to God but also to those who serve God Because you bring this

offering knowing that most of it is going to go to the sons of Aaron and It is an appreciation of their work and their diligent execution of these what would soon become Very rigorous and demanding duties daily daily daily Processing these offerings on behalf of the people it's work It could become a drudge, you know How many buckets of ashes do I have to haul how many buckets of blood if I got to splash and clean up and my clothes? Are splattered they've got to be laundered. I got to show up for work in in white linen and I deal with splattering blood all day It's a lot of work but it is work invested on behalf of the people and this this is a an offering first and foremost to God and The perfume of it the essence of it the the sweet smelling aroma of it goes to God But then there is this remainder that goes to the priest and there's no getting around it. It is an Offering designed to reflect not only appreciation for God But for those who faithfully serve God and in Israel those were the priests in the church It's anybody who exercises their spiritual gift in a faithful and dedicated way In a selfless way in a way that is honoring to God You can appreciate anyone you appreciate those who pray you appreciate those who provide food You appreciate those who wash the feet of the Saints and whatever whatever that means.

However, that is accomplished So that it is purely an expression of appreciation and look at the work that goes into it to express this appreciation I didn't just Send you a link to blue mountain comm so you could watch an animated card that somebody else dreamed up nothing wrong with that, but In and of itself but how much more appreciative when you receive a gift Say that someone has made with their own hands. I have received such gifts and I Appreciate them and it is a warm reminder of a bond of love and fellowship every time I encounter My mother used to make clothes she made my dad a shirt for his birthday one time it was a red plaid Western shirt my dad liked Western shirts and this one had the pearl snaps and and My mother labored over that thing and worked at it and she and the sewing machine didn't always get along real well, but she worked and worked and she made this beautiful shirt and At a certain point in time my dad changed sizes a little bit I inherited that shirt and every time I wore that shirt I thought about my mom and I'd watched her make it and she did it at times when my dad was at work and she presented it to him as a surprise and It was meaningful because of the effort that went into it not as hey You should accept this because look how hard I worked but as an expression of devotion and of appreciation That's what this offering is that helps it make sense, doesn't it? That's why it's fine flour ground. That's why it is the rare frankincense that you've got to work to get some That's why it's the olive oil that is pressed from olives and they're not growing on They're not passing all of trees every third bend in the trail as they wander in the wilderness That's something you've got to get you've got to find But like the woman who washed the Lord Jesus feet Hang the cost you remember Judas's attitude about it.

Well, you know, we could have taken that and sold it and given the money to the poor That's not what this is about. This is a Heartfelt expression and it reaches for the moon to do it That's what the grain offering is and as a side note. It is an appreciation of those who? diligently labor In their area of service to God That's what it's about.

Now. What about the honey? I'll close with this last point Why no honey? Let me tell you a few

things about honey. I googled honey Honey is the only food that never spoils Why doesn't honey spoil Honey is something of an oddity.

It says here in that unlike most foods It doesn't spoil over time. The oldest known sample of honey was found in an ancient Egyptian tomb dated to 3,000 years ago and the honey was still perfectly edible. I Wonder how they knew that Well Bob Flinders Petri you want to take a little spoonful of this 3,000 year old honey and Gulp it down.

Let's watch you closely and see what happens still edible 3,000 year old honey had not spoiled Well, you can get into you know the chemistry of it and the rest of it, but why would God specifically exclude honey? What did we just review about the nature of this offering? How much work do you have to put into honey? Reach down and grab it like Jonathan did Jonathan got a handful of honey on the battlefield Didn't require any labor didn't require any thought didn't require any any processing time who did all the work to make the honey? thousands and thousands of bees well, let me just Let me just irrigate to myself the work of all these bees and I'll present that to God God says no Don't bring me the work of others Even if they're tiny little winged others Remember what David said, I will not offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing Honey was available in the wild you could pass tree after tree bees were ubiquitous in the ancient Near East Anybody could wander out follow a bee find the comb Wait till they're quiescent reach in remember Samson found a honeycomb inside a lion carcass. I mean there were just bees and honey everywhere It was plentiful. It was easy to obtain And you say well, but it's sweet and it doesn't spoil and wouldn't God be pleased with this God says no honey in the offering specifically don't substitute it for the oil Don't put it in there as your personal little addition to the recipe.

No, honey It costs you nothing This offering is made entirely out of things that are precious and costly and don't bring it unless that's your attitude Not only are you humble not only do you recognize that Life has to be given so that you can approach The flesh of the Lord Jesus in prospect has to be torn asunder so that you can enter in But If you come before the Lord Come before his presence joyfully and appreciatively Willing to do whatever it takes To be pleasing in his sight and to bring something that is pleasing to him in our work in our labor Don't just grind the flour course grind it fine Don't just bring any old flower petal that smells kind of sweet find the frankincense Don't just put on a little dab of Crisco or a little Tablespoon of Wesson oil get the extra ultra virgin olive oil That which is rare that which is costly that which takes extra effort and extra dedication Because the dedication and the effort is motivated by appreciation The effort means nothing if the motivation isn't appreciation. That's what this offering is essentially about makes sense It's Complimentary it is the other side of the coin from the whole burnt offering and that's why it comes in chapter 2 Well, we have much more to say about this. There are a lot more details that inform us, but that's the gist That's the root.

And so as we come away from our look at this offering What do we think about? Is there leaven in what I bring before the Lord or is it Grain ground as fine as I can grind it Am I throwing in any old Cheap perfume or is it frankincense? Am I willing to grab a little honey and put on there

and say it's good enough or? do I recognize that it is the olive oil which reminds us of the Mount of Olives and Of the tears and the prayers of the Lord Jesus on that Mount That drives us in appreciation To come before God with the very best that we can bring expressing our highest love For him and for what he has done and what he is going to do for us. Let's close here in a word of prayer Father thank you for the wonderful Expressions of truth we find in your word and especially in this portion We pray that God the Holy Spirit will minister it to us in a way that is motivating and life-changing that directs us On that straight narrow road that leads to life. We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen