

## LESSON 20: OFFERING GIFTS OF LOVE

All through the ages, God's children have offered sacrifices to Him as a sign of their worship and love. During the Old Testament days, the people of God offered up many things that were dear to them: like crops, first fruits of their harvest, healthful grains like, barley, wheat, oats, grapes, etc. They also offered up blood sacrifice of animals like cows, sheep, and doves. Later, priests were appointed to offer gifts and pray to God. Some prayers were cries for help or sorrow for sin. Every Old Testament sacrifice had one great goal in common – Man deeply longed to make up for Adam's sin. He wanted to build a bridge back to God.

During Jesus' time, families went to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer up lambs, doves, and food. But God wanted for His people a far greater gift to offer. When Jesus, His beloved Son, shed his blood and died on the Cross, He gave us the perfect gift. It was so powerful that it washed away Adam's sin, redeemed the whole world, and opened the Father's heart and opened the gates of Heaven.

Through the ministry of the priest, Jesus is offered on the altar again without shedding His Blood. Jesus is the Lamb of God being offered continually to save our world. It is the most pleasing and powerful gift we can ever give God. It unites us with Him and fills our world with His life and love.

Words to know:

Mass: the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross offered by the priest in our church and in every Catholic Church.

Temple: The building in Jerusalem where the Jews worship God.

### Questions and Answers

1	<p>What is the Holy Mass?</p> <p>The Holy Mass is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, which is offered on the altar by the priest of God, under the appearances of bread and wine, in the memory of the sacrifice of the cross and in renewal of the sacrifice of the cross.</p>
2	<p>Is the sacrifice of the Mass the same sacrifice as the cross?</p> <p>The sacrifice of the mass is the very sacrifice of the cross; the only difference is in the manner of performing it.</p>
3	<p>What do you think of when you hear the word 'sacrifice'?</p> <p>Sacrifice means surrender, to give or offer your gift offering, something valuable to God.</p>
4	<p>Why is Jesus the perfect Sacrifice?</p> <p>Jesus is the perfect sacrifice because he removes sin completely. It is the only sacrifice pleasing to God.</p>
5	<p>What is meant by burnt offering?</p> <p>Burnt offering is a voluntary act of worship, recognition of God's goodness and provisions. Devotion to God. Complete surrender to God. Offerings offered are a Bull, Ram or Male bird.</p>
6.	<p>In the Old Testament why did the people offer sacrifices to God?</p> <p>They wanted to thank God for blessing them by sacrificing the first crops or a young lamb or ram. Man, deeply longed to make up for Adam's sin. He wanted to build a bridge back to God.</p>
7	<p>Why do people in the New Testament no longer offer bloody sacrifices?</p> <p>Animal sacrifices have ended because Jesus Christ was the ultimate and perfect sacrifice for our sins. (John Ch 1 vs 29 says), "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".</p>

8	During the Sacrifice of the Mass – the Consecration - the priest says the words of Jesus. What are they? The priest as he raises the Host he says “Take this, all of you, and eat of it: for this is My Body which will be given up for you.” Likewise to the chalice he says: “Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me”.
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Practice:

When we pass a church let us greet our Saviour with a short prayer,

“Praised be Jesus Christ. O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment Thine”.

Sacrifices in the Holy Bible

1. Worship – Noah in reverence and honor to God sacrificed animals from the Ark.
2. Love – Mary and Joseph consecrated Jesus to God and offered two young persons.
3. Gratitude – Cain and Abel brought the first fruits and first born to God.
4. Obedience – Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own beloved son, Isaac in obedience to God.
5. Repentance – Young bullock offered for a sin offering and a ram offered for a burnt offering