

## Heart Abandoned: Stay on the Altar

*Genesis 11:1-9, 27-32, Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 12:1-2*

**What did God say to you through this Sunday's sermon?**

READ THE PASSAGE:

**Read Genesis 11:1-9 with verses 27-32. Take note of the times you see the word “settled” as you consider these passages:**

- Why did people settle where they did? What was their motivation?
- How did things turn out for them?

**Look at Romans 12:1. Considering the Apostle Paul's original readers in Rome and the pantheon of gods their culture embraced, what might they envision when they thought of a sacrifice? What's different about the sacrifice Paul prescribes for Christians?**

**The Apostle Paul says offering ourselves as a living sacrifice is the way to worship God. Some Bible translations say this offering is “reasonable” and “appropriate.” What do we know about God that makes putting ourselves on the altar a “reasonable” thing to do?**

IN OTHER SCRIPTURES

**In the Old Testament, we see that God's people offered sacrifices daily at the Tabernacle in the wilderness and later at the Temple in Jerusalem. What did these sacrifices accomplish, according to the following passages:**

- Exodus 20:24
- Leviticus 1:2-4
- Leviticus 4:32-35
- Mark 1:44

**How do these verses help us understand what God is truly after when He asks us for a sacrifice?**

- 1 Samuel 15:22
- Psalm 40:6-8
- Psalm 51:16-17
- Proverbs 21:3
- Isaiah 1:10-17

The writer of Hebrews explains that Jesus' sacrifice of Himself on the cross accomplishes the payment for our sins that the Old Testament sacrificial system addressed. What's the point, then, of offering ourselves as a living sacrifice now?

## MAKING IT MATTER

What can make offering ourselves as a living sacrifice difficult? In other words, how might offering our living selves to God be harder than offering Him a dead animal or something else?

In Genesis 11, we read two stories of people settling for something other than what God wanted for them. Are there areas of your life where you've settled for less than God's best for you? What can you do today to starting moving again?

Perhaps one way to think of this practically is to apply Jesus' words from Mark 12:29-30. What are some specific ways we can put each of the following on the altar as living sacrifices:

- Our hearts
- Our souls
- Our minds
- Our strength