

20-0112a - Detailed Summary

20-0112a - *Obedience, Not Sacrifice*, Steve Cain

Bible Reader: Dominic Donnellan

This detailed summary by ChatGPT

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(Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

Obedience, Not Sacrifice: Christ's Role as Eternal High Priest

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 31:15)

Scripture Readings:

2nd Scripture Reading (0:29 - 0:59), Dominic Donnellan

(0:03 - 0:35) Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:13-15

- A reading from Matthew 23:13-15 addressing the Pharisees and scribes as hypocrites.
- Jesus condemns them for preventing others from entering the kingdom of heaven.

Summary

Preacher: Steve Cain

1. (0:36 - 2:41) **Jesus' Condemnation of the Pharisees**

- Further condemnation of the Pharisees for devouring widows' houses and making long prayers for show.
- They are also criticized for making converts worse than themselves.
- Transition to a reflection on worship, honoring God like David, who deeply respected and turned to God in all aspects of life.

2. (2:43 - 3:16) **Opening Prayer**

- A prayer thanking God for His love, care, health, and safety.
- A request for continued blessings and gratitude for past week's blessings.

3. (3:16 - 3:49) **Prayer for Scripture Understanding**

- Prayer for guidance in understanding God's will through the Holy Spirit.
- Recognition of the wisdom in the Scriptures written by holy men of old.

4. (3:51 - 4:12) **Introduction to the Lesson on Worship and the High Priest**

- Focus on worship directed to God and the role of the High Priest, mainly from the book of Hebrews.

5. (4:13 - 5:20) **Introduction to the Book of Hebrews**

- God spoke through prophets in the past, but now through His Son, Jesus.
- Jesus is described as the radiance of God's glory, sustaining all things by His Word.
- After His sacrifice, Jesus sits at the right hand of God, superior to angels.

6. (5:20 - 5:57) **Jesus' Purpose and Incarnation**

- Reflection on Jesus' purpose: coming to Earth, becoming man, and fulfilling His Father's will.
- Jesus' incarnation is emphasized, as described in Philippians 2 and John 1.

7. (5:57 - 6:36) **Jesus as Creator and Source of Life**

- Jesus is the Word made flesh, present from the beginning with God, through whom all things were created.
- Jesus is the light of men, though the darkness did not understand Him.

8. (6:36 - 7:07) **Jesus as High Priest and Mediator**

- Jesus, now in the Holy of Holies, intercedes for believers.
- The earthly outer tent existed only for priestly duties, while Jesus is in the heavenly inner tent.

9. (7:08 - 8:48) **The Role of Priests in the Old Covenant**

- Reflection on the priestly role, particularly in the Old Testament system where the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year.
- During the patriarchal period, fathers performed priestly duties, but this changed under the Mosaic Law.
- After the Israelites' exodus, God offered them a covenant to be His people, with blessings and curses based on obedience.

10. (8:49 - 9:35) **Israel's Covenant with God**

- God's covenant with Israel promised protection and blessings in exchange for their faithfulness.
- This covenant led to the establishment of the priesthood and the sacrificial system.

11. (9:36 - 11:52) **Priests and the Old Covenant's Limitations**

- The priesthood was established under the tribe of Levi, with Aaron as the High Priest.
- The sacrificial system could not fully address human conscience or sin awareness.

- God promised a new covenant through the prophet Jeremiah, anticipating changes to the old system.

12. (11:53 - 13:11) **The New Covenant and Jesus' Superior Ministry**

- Jesus' ministry is superior to the old covenant, with better promises.
- The old covenant had shortcomings, leading to the need for a new, more effective covenant.
- Hebrews 8 emphasizes that Jesus is the mediator of this new covenant, which surpasses the old one.

13. (13:12 - 14:04) **God's New Covenant with Israel and Judah**

- God promises a new covenant, writing His laws on the hearts and minds of His people.
- Under this covenant, God will forgive sins and remember them no more, making the old covenant obsolete.

14. (14:05 - 15:59) **Limitations of the Mosaic Law's Worship System**

- The old covenant's sacrificial system required priests to offer sacrifices for their own sins as well as the people's.
- The Mosaic Law's worship did not fully satisfy God's expectations, as it could not cleanse the conscience.
- The priests, being flawed humans, could not fully bridge the gap between God and the people.

15. (16:00 - 17:25) **God's Desire for Obedience Over Sacrifice**

- The speaker stresses that throughout the Bible, God has repeatedly stated He does not desire the sacrifice of bulls and goats.
- Instead, God seeks a circumcised heart, which refers to a heart that is fully aligned with God's will and conscious of sin.
- A circumcised heart reflects a desire to follow God's commandments and an awareness of falling short through sin.
- The Bible highlights this theme, showing that God's ultimate desire is not ritual sacrifices but sincere obedience from His people.

16. (17:25 - 18:13) **God Desires a Circumcised Heart, Not Sacrifices**

- The speaker emphasizes that God's true desire is not sacrifices or offerings but a "circumcised heart," meaning a heart aligned with His will.
- A circumcised heart is fully aware of sin and strives to live in accordance with God's commandments.
- Paul in Romans 3:6 highlights that all people sin and fall short of God's glory, and the wages of sin is death. Thus, God wants individuals to recognize their sins and strive to live in alignment with His will.

17. (18:14 - 19:07) **Sin as Falling Short of God's Will**

- Sin, whether it be theft, adultery, or any other transgression, reflects a departure from God's will.
- God has not changed His stance on sin or its seriousness. He does not desire the sacrifice of animals but obedience and devotion from His followers.
- The message of the Bible is consistent: God wants His worshipers to live righteous lives, not rely on external sacrifices to atone for their sins.

18. (19:08 - 20:01) **Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders**

- The speaker refers to Matthew 23, where Jesus condemns the religious leaders of His time for their hypocrisy.
- Jesus criticizes these leaders, who live in opposition to God's will, leading people astray rather than towards true worship.
- This passage highlights Jesus' discontent with the Pharisees and scribes who outwardly appear devout but fail to live up to God's expectations in their hearts and actions.

19. (20:01 - 22:07) **The Seven Woes of Matthew 23**

- Jesus' "Seven Woes" in Matthew 23 are a strong critique of the religious leaders' hypocrisy.
- Specifically, verses 13 and 15 point out how these leaders mislead converts, making them "twice as much a son of hell" as they are.
- The speaker connects this to the broader issue of religious hypocrisy, questioning why anyone would want to follow leaders who do not live by God's will.
- Jesus was given a body to do God's will perfectly, unlike those religious leaders.

20. (22:07 - 23:13) **The Law as a Shadow of Good Things to Come**

- Hebrews 10 is quoted to emphasize that the Mosaic Law and its sacrificial system were only a shadow of the good things to come through Christ.
- The repeated sacrifices under the law could never make people perfect or cleanse them of sin once and for all.
- The speaker underscores that it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to remove sin permanently.

21. (23:14 - 24:23) **Christ Came to Do God's Will**

- Christ was given a body to fulfill God's will, living a perfect, sinless life.
- Sacrifices and offerings were not what God ultimately desired; He wanted people to live the life He ordained.
- Jesus, aware of human shortcomings, perfectly embodied God's will and offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice.

22. (24:23 - 25:19) **Jesus as High Priest and Redeemer**

- Jesus' role as High Priest allowed Him to offer the ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins.
- By dying on the cross, He fulfilled God's will and redeemed mankind.
- The fear of death, prevalent during biblical times and still relevant today, is conquered through Jesus, who offers the hope of eternal life.

23. (25:20 - 26:34) **Jesus Defeats Death and Satan**

- The Bible explains humanity's origin, purpose, and destiny, addressing the fear of death.
- Sin, as Satan's tool, holds humanity in the grip of death, but Jesus overcame this through His sinless life and resurrection.
- Jesus entered Satan's stronghold (death) but was not bound by it, as He had no sin, and thus God resurrected Him.

24. (26:35 - 27:23) **The Resurrection and Salvation**

- Through His resurrection, Jesus provides the opportunity for believers to be forgiven of their sins and share in His righteousness.
- Romans 1:16-17 is cited to affirm that the gospel is the power of God for salvation, revealing God's righteousness to all who believe.

25. (27:23 - 29:26) **Baptism and New Life in Christ**

- Romans 6 speaks about the transformative nature of baptism, symbolizing a believer's death to sin and resurrection to new life in Christ.
- Christians are baptized into Jesus' death and raised to live a new life, just as Christ was raised from the dead.
- The speaker emphasizes the importance of living a life free from sin after receiving God's grace.

26. (29:27 - 31:15) **Jesus as the High Priest After the Order of Melchizedek**

- The speaker mentions the desire to discuss later what it means for Jesus to be a High Priest "after the order of Melchizedek."
- Jesus' priesthood intercedes on behalf of His followers, representing them before God.
- As Christians, believers are part of the household of Jesus, much like Moses led his house.
- The speaker extends an invitation to become a disciple of Jesus, offering the opportunity for salvation and representation by Jesus as the High Priest before God.