

August 20, 2022. Local Church Budget

Offerings Speak Loudly!

Appeal: Exodus 29: 1

“This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect.”

We worship God with our offerings because they are sermons without words. After building the tabernacle from the freewill offerings of the people, it was now time to set apart Aaron and his sons for the holy ministry. Exodus 29 provides details about the ordination service of the first priests in Israel. Interestingly, Moses, the leader, did not deliver a special speech or preach a sermon for this occasion. But one thing was prominent, offerings of various kinds: Sin offering, burnt offering, and wave offering. What were the messages conveyed by these offerings?

The sin offering was for the atonement of sin. The priests were reminded that they needed God’s grace and forgiveness to qualify for their duty. The burnt offering was burned completely on the altar. It pointed to the total commitment that was required from those called to service. Finally, wave offering was presented in a waving-type motion, elevated and swung to and fro toward heaven. It symbolizes the priest’s dedication to God’s service and about God’s provision for those who sacrificed themselves in service to Him. Through these multiple offerings, they learned the true meaning of their ordination.

Do we have some doubts about the pertinence of worshipping God with our offerings? If a local church already has enough financial resources to support its ministries, should it maintain offerings as an element of the worship service? Offerings have a value far beyond monetary. Offerings are sermons without words. They represent acts of worship and convey essential spiritual lessons. Among other things, they remind us of God’s gift of salvation, His daily blessings, and our adequate response of total commitment. It would be unwise to silence God’s voice by renouncing from practicing offerings. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us be attentive to God’s voice.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for the multiple ways You talk to us, Your children. As we bring our offerings and tithe today, teach us the spiritual lessons we need.