*Spirit* of Worship

**Reading - John 4:4-24**

**The Jews were a Good Example of a Bad Example**

The last word God has for his people of the Old Covenant is not a good one. AND IT’S ALL ABOUT MONEY! … ***[Malachi 1:6-14] …***  ***14Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished.***

God looks at vows as sacred. ***[Judges 11:30-36] And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand,  31then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”  32So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the Lord gave them into his hand…. 34Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.  35And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.”***

**How Do We compare to the Jews?**

***[2 Timothy 2:15] Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.***

***[2 Peter 1:5-11] For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,  6and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,  7and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.  8For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.  9For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.  10Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.  11For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

Are we giving as we are being prospered or are we finding ways to substitute LAME sacrifices to God? ***[1 Corinthians 16:2] Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him… [2 Corinthians 9:6-8] The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.  7Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  8And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work***.

Is serving God a “weariness”? ***[Psalms 122:1] I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”***

**the Spirit of Holiness** -- ***[Psalms 29:2] Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.***

***[1 Peter 1:13-16] Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.  14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,  15but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;  16since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”***

***[Psalms 24:3-4] Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart…***

c. How do we know this is a holy place? ***[Matthew 18:20] For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.***

Does He get the FIRST & BEST of our service?