

To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice, and To

by F.B. Meyer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of obedience and inward devotion over external rituals and sacrifices.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalm 51:16-17, Proverbs 21:3, Isaiah 1:11-17, Micah 6:8, Matthew 23:23, John 4:24, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 1:22

Topics: "True Worship", "Obedience"

Description

F.B. Meyer emphasizes the biblical principle that obedience to God is far more valuable than mere sacrifices, as illustrated in 1 Samuel 15:22. He warns against the tendency to separate religion from morality, suggesting that outward rituals cannot compensate for a lack of inner devotion and moral integrity. Meyer highlights that true worship must come from the heart and that even the smallest acts of obedience are more precious to God than grand sacrifices. He calls for self-examination, urging believers to prioritize their spiritual condition over their external offerings.

Transcript

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to

hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. xv. 22.

THIS is a great principle, which is repeatedly enforced throughout the Bible. Men have always been apt to divorce religion and morality, and to suppose that a certain tribute of sacrifice to God will be sufficient compensation for notorious evil-doing. But in every age God's servants have protested against the notion, and have insisted, as Samuel did with Saul, that it were better to obey, although there should be no spoil from which to select victims for sacrifice. This was Christ's perpetual protest against the Pharisees.

Let the Ritualist beware. There is a grave fear lest extreme attention to the outward rite may be accompanied by carelessness to the inward temper. Where the outward observance is the expression of the attitude of the soul, it is to be respected even by those of us who feel that excessive symbolism is hostile to the devout life; but where the rite takes the place of the soul's devotion, or condones a lax morality, it cannot be too sternly deprecated. Though all the Levitical rites should be observed without flaw, they could not compensate for the persistent neglect of the least item of the decalogue. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Let us all beware. We are apt to make sacrifices of time and money and energy for God, and to comfort ourselves with the reflection that such as we are may be excused if in small lapses of temper, or disposition, we come short of the Divine standard. No; it cannot pass muster. One sin mastered, one temptation resisted, one duty performed, is dearer to God than the most costly sacrifices that were ever piled upon the altar.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/fb-meyer/to-obey-is-better-than-sacrifice-and-to/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net