

Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

*“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did” (Heb 11:4)*

True faith on God accepts Him as the Lord or Governor. He is the only one worthy to be worshipped (Heb 11:4) and obeyed (Heb 11:7). The supremacy and preeminence in our lives must be given only to Him. Faith in the Lordship of God leads us to a fourfold action—

□ When we believe God is our Lord, we will honour Him with our best. All that we possess is only what He has given us. Cain brought to God the “fruits of the soil” whereas Abel brought “the firstlings of the flock and of the fat thereof” (Gen 4:3,4). Look at the difference in their giving. A man of God said, “Not how much we give but how much we take from God’s gifts is what matters.” We are only stewards and not owners of God’s gifts —the talents, time and treasure. God is worthy of our best.

□ This kind of faith acknowledges the unworthiness of man before the great Lord and leads him to stand only on the merit of Christ’s Blood. Faith is the confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the Blood of Jesus (Heb 10:19,20). Otherwise man is nothing but “dust of the ground.” David exclaimed before God, “What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?” (Psa 8:3). Let this exclamation be ours too! If we believe that God is our Lord, accepting our nothingness we will joyfully sing, *He is my everything!*

□ Faith accepts the unquestionable supremacy of God’s wisdom. Human knowledge is nothing before God’s wisdom (1 Cor 1:25). He is Lord! Who can contend with Him? Could God’s plan of testing Abraham, ordering him to sacrifice his only begotten son, be questioned? (Heb 11:17). When God is Lord, there’s no place for such questions from our chicken brain! Has not God said, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so My thoughts are higher than yours” (Isa 55:8,9)? Even when we don’t understand what He says or demands, we simply accept it because He is Lord.

□ If God is Lord, we would worship the Blesser rather than the blessing. Perhaps Abraham and Sarah were preoccupied with the child of their old age. God asked back what He gave. Our blessings must be poured out before the Lord. Our crowns must be thrown at His feet. We must of course rejoice over God’s blessings but beware of idolizing them. What a testimony it was when David said, “Whom have I in Heaven but You? And there is none upon earth whom I desire besides You!” (Psa 73:25).

Almighty God, we worship You as the Lord of Heaven and Earth. We worship You as the Lord of all living creature. We worship You as the Lord of grace and mercy. We worship You as the Lord of righteousness and holiness. We worship You as the Lord of forgiveness and redemption. We worship You as the unchanging Lord of the Covenant. We worship You as the Lord who is good all the time. We worship You as the Lord of our lives, the Lord of all.

Thank You, O God, for bringing us from the rule of Satan under Your lordship. A glorious liberation! Forgive us for mere lip service to Your lordship without wholehearted submission. Help us honour You with our best. Sorry for grieving You with cheap offerings. Instead of giving You what's right, we give only what's left. We forget we are only stewards of Your endowments but act as owners. We bring now our time, talents and treasure under Your lordship.

Lord Almighty, we are unworthy of Your love. We are nothing and even less than nothing. We are too sinful to approach You the all-holy God. We thank You for the Blood of Jesus that cleanses us and makes us acceptable before You. Thank You for His robe of righteousness which has replaced our rags of self-righteousness. Thank You for the holy boldness He has given us because of His advocacy ministry before You. Help us bring every area of our life under Your lordship. Deliver us from doublemindedness and divided loyalty.

Dear Lord, forgive us our intellectual arrogance arising from education and experience. Help us realize that our so-called wisdom is foolishness before You. Our knowledge is nothing before Your wisdom. We bow before You as Your thoughts are higher than ours as the heavens are above the earth. Who are we to question You, O Sovereign Lord? How dare we are that we at times try to counsel You! Help us stand before You in worshipful silence. Help us obey You delightfully whether or not we understand Your commands.

Father God, forgive us for getting overoccupied with Your blessings, forgetting You the Blessor. Our relationship with You has become utilitarian. You have made us kings and priests to offer sacrifice of praises to You. Let our giving be to worship You and not to get something in return. Let our prayers ascend to You as a sweet-smelling aroma to gladden Your heart. Help us pour out before You all Your blessings. Help us place at Your feet the crowns You reward us with. Let us love You more than all the good things You have blessed us with. Let our supreme longing be to see You face to face in eternity. Amen!

*(Mt 11:25; Jer 23:6; 2 Cor 1:3; Psa 73:1; 116:12-14; 130:4; Neh 9:32; Col 1:12-14; Isa 55:9; 64:6; 1 Jn 1:7; 3:1,2; Heb 4:15,16; 1 Cor 1:25-29; Rom 11:33-36; 12:1,2; 1 Pet 2:5)*