

BURNT OFFERINGS BRING GOD'S SONG AND JOY

2 Chronicles 29:27

Introduction: Life very seldom turns out exactly like one plans it.

A young man wanted to be a doctor but with no father in the family, he had to support his mother, brothers and sisters.

A business man had great dreams of his business being successful - it wasn't and he went bankrupt.

A dreamed of having a wife and family, but he spent his life in loneliness, never marrying.

A young woman wanted to be a nurse in exotic lands, but spent her life being a secretary in her little home town.

When life's song has ended, the "music" is over, then what?

I. OFFERINGS IN LIFE CAN BRING A SONG AND JOY

1. King Ahaz has died and Hezekiah has become king and Israel is in a happy revival.
 - There was a great service at the Temple with burnt offerings offered according to God's instructions.
 - Offerings represented the people's lives and their lives were rededicated to God.
 - Trumpets blasted and the people broke out in song.
 - Different kinds of offerings were given, but burnt offerings were the most significant.

II. ISRAEL'S JOY CAN BE EXPERIENCED AGAIN BUT BY US

1. We can come to our own private altars, not a public one as did Israel.
2. When life doesn't run the way we want and gives us sore and difficult things, self-denials, frustrations can bring great values.
3. Sometimes it isn't until the "burnt" offerings begin to be offered that the "song"/joy starts.
4. A man once strung wire to hear the winds make music but there was no sound but then a storm came through and strong winds blew and then there was music.
5. Often it is only when the hurt comes that our true quality comes out.
6. When the "burnt" offering begins (the hurtful, costly things) then comes the joy/song of the Lord.
7. If a person's dream of success and world recognition doesn't happen, but that person has learned that there are more important things than applause and praise, then that person has learned God's values - has that person then failed?
8. A spoiled young woman marries, has a family and one of her children gets very ill, unto death but the child's life is spared. The spoiled woman/wife/mother changes her attitude and becomes a loving mother and wife. What happened? When the "burnt" offering began, then came the Lord's song/joy.

III. ONLY WHEN ONE'S LIFE IS OPEN TO GOD WILL GOD'S SONG BE HEARD

1. Burnt offerings don't always bring a song. Bitterness, self-pity and resentment may come, for if one's heart is not open to God, there will be no song, no music, no joy.
2. Is your life open to God? Can you say "not my will but thine be done?"
3. Can you look God in the face and say: "ask anything, I will accept it, even if it means denying my own plans, even if it means hard times, if it is they will, I accept it?"
4. Burnt offerings are more than life's ordinary problems. Burnt offerings is surrender to God's will. It is dedicating every dream and desire to Christ's Lordship.
5. Here are some altars where the "burnt" offering could be made:
 - I refuse to make such a surrender.
 - I will not have my desires and dreams over ridden.
 - I will not hand my life over to a higher authority, even if it is God.
 - I will not do it. What would be left for me?

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember Paul and Silas singing at midnight while in chains and in prison? What Mary said unto the Lord, "...behold, thy hand maiden..." and what Jesus said, "...nevertheless, not my will but thine..."
2. God is loyal to His Word. The degree of one's surrender to Him is the degree of real happiness one will experience.