

Atonement

Exodus 32

We all feel the need for atonement. We don't use that word very often, except in religious settings. But we feel the need when we hurt someone or they hurt us. Damage has been done and a price must be paid to fix it. The injury needs to be atoned. Or better, ***the person who hurt you needs to atone for the way they hurt you.*** They need to fix the problem to restore the relationship. The result of atonement is RECONCILIATION.

When our boys were small we used to say ***"Sorry's not enough."*** There are rules you need in a house with four boys that you don't probably need with all girls. One of the rules in our house was "no wrestling until Dad gets home." You can imagine why we needed that rule. Mom didn't want to referee. Boys start throwing elbows, somebody gets cracked in the head and now there are tears.

The penitent runs up to mom saying, "Sorry, sorry, sorry!" Now mom has to referee and figure out what happened. But everyone knows that just saying you're sorry is not enough to fix the situation.

- First, your sorry has to be sincere. Just saying the words is meaningless if you don't actually mean them.
- Second, your sorry has to mean repentance - that you don't plan to go back and just whack your brother again.
- Third, your sorry needs some kind of restitution. If you broke your brother's game, you buy him a new one or give him a comparable one of your own.
- The point of atonement is that ***damage has been done and something must be done to fix it.***

Sorry's not enough.

In your worship program we've printed Pastor Colin Smith's summary of atonement:

"Atonement is what it takes to put right something that is wrong... Being sorry won't do it... A great leader can't do it... Painstaking obedience won't do it... A worthy sacrifice will do it." Colin Smith, OpentheBible.org

What does it take to put right something that has gone wrong? If you run into someone's car - damage has been done and someone has to pay for it. Insurance will get involved to sort out who is responsible, but just saying "sorry" to the person you rear-ended will not make atonement; it will not settle the issue. When damage has been done, payment must be made.

Apply this to a family. ***Let's say you leave your teenage kids at home for the weekend.*** You and your wife take a weekend getaway and you leave the kids with food and instructions not to kill each other. When you get back a couple of days later, the house is a wreck and you find out they hosted a crazy party and half of their school showed up, bringing alcohol, drugs and all kinds of clothing-free activities. (This is a purely fictitious account and any similarity to a real situation is purely coincidental!)

Damage has been done. Things in the house are broken and the place is a mess. More than that, your family principles have been violated! You are steaming. Clearly, if the kids kneel in front of you and say "Sorry! Sorry! Sorry!" you will respond, "You better be! But sorry is not enough!"

Before today you may not have said this but from now on you might add: ***"ATONEMENT MUST BE MADE!"*** Damage has been done, now payment must be made to fix it. You can probably already envision the kind of work that would go toward atoning for that situation. The kids get to work right away cleaning up the house. They pool their cash together and pay for as much of the damage and repairs as they can. They plan to work lots of chores or odd jobs to pay for the rest. And over time they demonstrate genuine repentance for their misbehavior by NOT hosting or even going to other raucous parties like this one.

Let's walk through Exodus 32 to see **how atonement can be made** - how our relationship with God can be repaired.

How Atonement Can be Made

1. Sin must be Acknowledged
2. A Price must be Paid
3. A Mediator must Intercede

Here are ***three requirements for atonement.*** Sin must be acknowledged. Sorry is not enough, but it is necessary. Some kind of payment or restitution must be made. And the real key is the mediator – having someone to serve as your advocate and intercessor.

Next week we will study the ***Day of Atonement*** and the sacrifices involved – so we'll zoom in next week on the price to be paid: the animals to be sacrificed, the blood to be shed. This week we will focus on **WHO can make atonement.** Moses tried but was only partially successful. We need a better Moses - a better mediator. But Moses shows us the kind of mediator we will need, and, thankfully, the One we have in Jesus Christ!

Last week we went to **Mount Sinai** with God's people and heard the voice of God from the cloud and fire and lightning and earthquake as He presented the 10 Commandments to His people. We are still at Mount Sinai just a dozen chapters later. As requested, God stopped speaking directly to the people and spoke instead just to Moses, who went up into the presence of God on behalf of

the people and then came back down from God's presence to speak to the Israelites on behalf of God.

First – sin must be acknowledged for atonement to begin.

How Atonement Can be Made

1. *Sin must be Acknowledged*

“The next day Moses said to the people, ‘**You have sinned a great sin.** And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement **for your sin.**’ Exodus 32:30

Sorry is not enough, but it is the necessary first step. Not just saying the words but meaning them. In the 90s sitcom *Mad About You* Paul Riser had to admit some failing to his wife (Helen Hunt). He lowered his head and struggled to say, “I admit it. You were right.” Helen looked down her nose at him and said, “**But more importantly...**” Paul shook his head and reluctantly acknowledged, “I was wrong.”

It has often been pointed out that the hardest words for men to express are:

The hardest but most important words to say:

“I’m sorry. I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”

I’ll admit these nine words are very difficult for me to choke out. Kristin hates when I admit this but I prefer to align myself with Sherlock Holmes – “*Rule out the impossible and whatever remains, however improbable, must be true.*” The impossible, in this case, being that I was in the wrong. That is not a positive example, men – but a negative one. So please do NOT make that the one thing you take away from this message.

Let’s practice the right words to say – all together: “I’m sorry. I was wrong. Will you forgive me?” Now, if you’re here with someone – look at them and say the words again, “I’m sorry. I was wrong. Will you forgive me?” For some of you – a little healing just started. Sorry is not enough, but it is the starting point.

Let’s go back to the start of the story and see what the people did. ***What was this GREAT SIN that had to be acknowledged?*** Exodus 32, verse 1.

How Atonement Can be Made

1. *Sin must be Acknowledged*

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, **make us gods** who shall go before us.” Exodus 32:1

Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days. Toward the end of this time, the 2 million or so Israelites grew impatient. Aaron was the number 2, so ***the people assembled and surrounded Aaron with a demand***: “Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

Notice how quickly they rewrote history! **Moses** – who they say led them out of Egypt – had been ***gone for six weeks and they were already writing him off***. The one who called down ten devastating plagues and then split the Red Sea in half with his staff... the one through whom God had provided water in the desert and manna from the sky... They were ready to abandon Moses, replace him with Aaron and replace the God of Moses with whatever gods Aaron could fabricate for them.

How crazy is this mob mentality? Just a few weeks before, the mountain in front of them had trembled with the glorious and terrifying presence of God and, having heard the 10 commandments, they had vowed to obey them!

How Atonement Can be Made

1. Sin must be Acknowledged

The people all responded together, ***“We will do everything the LORD has said.”*** Exodus 19:8

With lines like that, ***the Bible is a true COMEDY***, isn't it? We will do EVERYTHING. God's people had already complained several times, threatened to stone Moses and tried to go back to Egypt – where they were SLAVES. When they said “everything” they meant, “we will do the bits the Lord commands us that we feel like doing in the moment.” Here's the reality from God's perspective back in chapter 32:

How Atonement Can be Made

1. Sin must be Acknowledged

“The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play... ‘Your people... have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them.” Exodus 32:6-7

You probably have a footnote in verse six. The phrase “rose up to play” is a euphemism in the Hebrew like if we said, ***“the college kids partied all weekend.”*** Everything that comes to mind with a frat party is what is implied in the phrase “rose up to play,” there in verse six. Suffice it to say, the drinks went around and the clothing came off... It was not a small departure from the 10 commandments. It was a massive departure – a complete abandonment of God's clearly revealed will for His people to be a HOLY NATION.

Instead of standing out as those marked by the holiness of God, ***they plunged headlong into the idolatry and immorality of the nations around them.*** The calf idol may represent an Egyptian deity – or a Canaanite deity (or both). It could have been a throne type thing on which the Lord,

the God of Israel, could sit – which may have been how Aaron justified making it. But the bottom line is that they flagrantly **violated the first and second commandment** by making this statue. Look at verse 8:

How Atonement Can be Made

1. Sin must be Acknowledged

“They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’” Exodus 32:8

Whatever the calf represented – at the cost of all the gold they plundered when God saved them from Egypt – they bowed down to worship it, giving that shiny statue credit for their deliverance. So this is a vivid picture of idolatry. Our idolatry today is way more subtle but no less real. And **idol is anything we put in the place of God**. Anything you love, trust and obey ahead of God is your idol – your functional god. Anything you look to to give you what only God can give – that is your idol.

This precious golden **calf represented something they could see and bow down before** – something they could understand and control. It was a hand-crafted god. The people demanded a god more to their liking who would operate on THEIR timeframe. Moses was gone for six weeks and their patience was gone. They wanted something NOW and they wanted a god they would worship in THEIR own way – which was really in the ways of the pagan nations around them – with alcohol flowing and clothes disappearing.

- **What is YOUR functional god?** What are you tempted to put in the place of God?
- What do you love, trust and obey more than God?
 - Often it’s a good thing like your husband or wife; girlfriend or boyfriend; kids or the desire for kids.
 - Could be your job, your bank account, your investments.
 - Could be your goals and dreams.
 - Could be your stuff – your house, your car – or the things that you want.
- **What is your IF ONLY?** “If only I had _____ then I’d be happy, then life would have meaning, then I’d be fulfilled.” That is your idol.
 - Whether you have it or you don’t have it doesn’t matter – it’s what you are looking to as your god – the thing that can SAVE YOU, help you, fill you, lead you.

“These are your gods who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” Brothers, sisters – look at your life. What are you saying that to RIGHT NOW? “These are your gods who saved you from financial ruin... these are your gods who saved you from loneliness... These are your gods who saved you from emptiness and sadness...”

For atonement to be made the first step is to acknowledge the sin of idolatry – to admit you have put something in the place of God. ***The first step toward change is to admit you have a problem.*** And the problem we all have is **the sin of idolatry**. We all constantly put things in the place of God. We elevate them to the throne in our hearts and bump God off of that throne.

We all need atonement – we need a process to fix our relationship with God. The first requirement for atonement is acknowledging our sin. ***The second requirement is that a price must be paid:***

How Atonement Can be Made

2. A Price Must be Paid

“I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, **that my wrath may burn hot against them** and I may consume them...” Exodus 32:9-10

When God sees sin and idolatry his anger is kindled – even against HIS OWN PEOPLE. Numerous times in Israel’s history the Lord gets angry with them and sends some kind of devastating punishment. This is one of those times. He threatens to CONSUME them – to literally burn them up in his anger and start over with Moses as a new Abraham – building a new nation from one man.

Israel was huge at this point – over 2 million people. And God was so angry at their idolatry he was ***ready to consume the whole assembly in fire*** – poof! So what was it that prevented this outpouring of judgment? Moses. **Their leader served as a MEDIATOR** who interceded on their behalf. But look at what he did in verse 26:

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, **‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me.’** And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel, put your sword on your side each of you...” Exodus 32:26-27

For Atonement to be Made, A Price Must be Paid

“And go to and from gate to gate throughout the camp and **each of you kill his brother** and his companion and his neighbor. And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day **about three thousand men of the people fell.**” Exodus 32:27-28

For Atonement to be made, a price must be paid. Apparently ***the Levites were the only group in Israel who did NOT bow down to the golden calf*** – they were like Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego in the time of Daniel 1,000 years later. They stayed “on the Lord’s side,” and did not give in to idolatry. And so they helped cleanse the idolatry from Israel – they purged the evil from the camp.

As a result, Moses said, **they were ORDAINED for the service of the Lord**. They were consecrated to the Lord for His service by the blood of their battle. They had the unimaginably difficult task of killing friends, family members and neighbors who had violated God's commandments in an orgy of idolatry.

You won't understand the violence in the Old Testament until you understand the HOLINESS of God and His wrath against sin. Remember, God is at WAR with idols. God is a jealous God who will not share His glory with another. For His people to so quickly abandon worship as He had instructed them and construct an idol, was such a flagrant violation that 3,000 killed by the sword was actually a minor consequence compared to some others that would come later.

That blood sacrifice was not enough to satisfy the justice of God. Moses again interceded for the people, as we'll see in a moment, but God refused to let Moses die in their place, in verse 32 and said:

How Atonement Can be Made

2. A Price Must be Paid

"Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book... I will visit their sin upon them.' Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf." Exodus 32:34-35

We don't know how many people died in this plague but ***ancient illnesses were known to wipe out whole villages*** and kill a substantial percentage of a population. So it's entirely possible that the scale of death from this plague was many times the number killed by the Levites – maybe 30,000 or even 300,000 of the 2 million.

Remember, sorry is not enough. It is necessary for atonement to begin. But atonement requires a payment. The whole sacrifice system was developing to show the people how costly it is to pay for sin. But here, just a few weeks after the 10 commandments were given, ***the nation experiences firsthand the cost of sin.*** The Levites killed personal friends and family. Then a plague wiped out the people most responsible for the incident with the golden calf. "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book."

A price must be paid for atonement to be made. Sin must be acknowledged, a price must be paid and third – a mediator must intercede.

How Atonement Can be Made

3. A Mediator Must Intercede

- ***Incarnation***

"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down, for your people... have corrupted themselves..." Exodus 32:7

Moses was up on the mountain with the Lord for forty days and forty nights. God’s glorious presence came down on that mountain with smoke and fire, thunder and lightning. The mountain was marked out so no one would go near it lest they die. But Moses alone marched up the mountain – right into the presence of God – and lived. He not only lived, he communed with God so intimately that he did not even need food or water!!!

We’ll see **seven characteristics of a MEDIATOR** – the first one is incarnation. In order to mediate this conflict between God and the people, ***Moses had to GO DOWN***. He was in an elevated place surrounded by the glory of God but he stepped down from that place of honor and humbly walked down the mountain, lowering himself to the level of the sinful people he was called to serve. “Go down.”

This is a picture of the **incarnation**. Moses walked down from the mountain. Jesus walked down from heaven itself. Moses was in the presence of God for a “complete” period of 40 days. Jesus was eternally one with the Father in the perfect communion of the Holy Spirit. Moses left the peace, joy and glory of God’s presence and ***went down to confront the sin of the people***. Jesus left his position of highest glory in the universe and ***went down to BEAR the sin of the people***.

Moses would go down as a picture of the incarnation. But first he served the people through his ***intercession on their behalf***.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

1. Incarnation – “Go down.” (v. 8)
2. Intercession – “But ***Moses implored the Lord his God***. ‘O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt?’” (v. 11)

Moses stands between a holy God whose anger is burning in judgment against his sinful, idolatrous people, and Moses pleads with God on their behalf. Here is the essence of what it means to be **a MEDIATOR**. And this is the key to atonement: having an advocate to plead on our behalf.

On our own, we would be like the nation of Israel – exposed before God in our sin and idolatry and subject to His flaming, all consuming wrath. **But we have a mediator**. We have one who intercedes for us before the holy throne of God.

Moses makes three appeals to God on behalf of the nation:

Moses’ Intercession:

Your People	“Why does your wrath burn hot against your people...?” v. 11
Your Publicity	“Why should the Egyptians say...?” v. 12
Your Promises	“Remember Abraham... to whom you swore...” v. 13

All three of Moses' **appeals are based on GOD – HIS character and actions**. Moses says – “These are YOUR PEOPLE whom you brought out of the land with great power and a mighty hand.” Then he points out the bad publicity that would result to God’s own name and reputation if other nations, like Egypt, heard that Israel had been obliterated. Finally, Moses appealed to the foundational promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Israel – promises of a great nation that would inherit a special land. God had said, in verse 13, “I will give [this land] to your offspring, and they shall inherit it FOREVER.”

Jesus – our great High Priest and Mediator – lives to intercede for us before God’s holy throne. And the basis of His intercession for us has nothing to do with US and everything to do with the character, reputation, plans and promises of God Himself.

- ***We are God’s People because HE CHOSE US*** – HE SAVED US – HE paid the price to redeem us. We belong to Him not because we are so amazing but because HIS GRACE is so amazing!
- Jesus pleads on our behalf ***not because we are so deserving*** of God’s mercy but because God is so infinitely merciful.
- Our hope before the holy God of the Bible is not that we have earned a great reputation for ourselves but that God’s primary concern is ***His own reputation*** – the honor of His name.
- And our firm foundation is ***not OUR efforts, but GOD’S promises***. We rest on the righteousness of Christ – the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to bless the world through Abraham’s offspring.

Moses interceded for the nation and God relented – He chose not to destroy the whole multitude. Moses went down, in the pathway of incarnation he left the mountain and went down among the people. Then we see the third characteristic of a mediator – Revelation.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

2. Intercession – “Moses implored the Lord his God.” (v. 11)

3. Revelation

“As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses... ***The LORD would speak to Moses face to face***, as one speaks to a friend.” Exodus 33:9-11

Moses had already brought the nation to meet God for the announcement of the 10 commandments. He prepared them to encounter the living God. After that earth-shattering event, the people begged Moses to speak with God on their behalf – it was too scary to hear from God directly. So from then on God spoke to Moses and ***Moses was the mediator of divine revelation***. That is how we got the first five books of the Bible. Moses met personally with God and wrote all of that down! What a gift of knowledge – received through a mediator.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

2. Intercession – “Moses implored the Lord.” (v. 11)

3. Revelation – “Moses’ anger burned hot, and he threw the tables out of his hands... He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire...” (v. 19-20)

The same anger that burned in the Lord now burns in Moses’ heart. The stone tablets engraved by the finger of God with the Law of God Moses now throws down and breaks. What a graphic visual of ***the breaking of the covenant***. God had called the people together to be HIS PEOPLE. Their covenant relationship, like a marriage, was based on mutual VOWS. These were symbolized not with rings but with God’s Law carved into those stone tablets.

Since Israel betrayed the Lord and bowed down in worship of the golden calf, ***they broke their side of the covenant*** – so their relationship with God was damaged – broken in fact, like the stone tablets now at Moses’ feet. Then Moses did to the calf what the nation was supposed to do with all idols. He burned it, ground it up and scattered the ashes.

Here is the revelation of God’s will for us related to IDOLS. We are not to cater to them or indulge them. We are not to “throw our money together and see what comes out.” We are to be diligent and wary of the presence of idols – and we are to fight against those other loves, treating them as the soul-destroying enemies they are. The Puritan preacher John Owen said it this way:

Revelation of God’s Will

“Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” John Owen

We are in a daily battle with sin and the forces of the devil. To deny, ignore or downplay that battle is not to make it any less real. Sin is the spark that will always grow into idolatry if we leave it unchecked. The mob came to Aaron wanting a god more to their liking. Aaron tried to claim he wasn’t to blame for what happened. But the truth was that he gave in to the idolatrous inclinations of the people instead of standing up to them as Moses did later.

Moses brought the revelation of God’s Will down from the mountain to the people – and it felt like a crushing confrontation of their sin. Jesus brought the full and final revelation of God’s Will down from heaven to the whole world – and a lot of his words were a direct confrontation of sin, especially the sin of religious pride.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

3. Revelation – “Moses’ anger burned hot” (v. 19)

4. Purification – “Who is on the Lord’s side?” (v. 26)

A Mediator reveals God’s will and purifies God’s people. Moses made the people drink the water that was filled with the ashes of the golden calf. That’s like the mom who catches her son trying things out with one cigarette and she locks him in a closet until he smokes the rest of the pack.

After that he is so sick he throws up numerous times and never wants to look at a cigarette again. I'm sure that would be considered child abuse today – but in the old days solutions like that were crude but effective.

After making them drink golden calf water and then confronting Aaron for his failure of leadership, Moses called out at the gate of the camp – **“Who is on the Lord's side?”** And all the sons of Levi came to him. He sent that one tribe out with swords and commanded them to slaughter their brothers and neighbors and friends who had bowed down to the golden calf. And 3,000 died that day.

What a vivid picture of ***the cost of purification***. “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” This story shows us that it was only God's mercy that the whole nation did not die. 3,000 killed by the sword was a necessary price for atonement to be made. And Moses was the mediator of that cleansing.

Jesus came as the fulfillment of God's revelation and ***His mission was to cleanse and purify the nation of Israel***. He came to seek and save the Lost sheep of Israel. And he came to DIVIDE the nation into those who would believe in and follow him and those who would not. So Jesus accomplished the purification of Israel through DIVISION into believers and non-believers.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

4. Purification – “Who is on the Lord's side?” (v. 26)
5. Substitution – “Forgive their sin – but if not, blot me out of your book” (v. 32)

Next Moses seeks to place himself – and his soul – between his holy God and his sinful nation. God refuses this offer for reasons we'll see in a minute. But Moses offers to die in their place – to be blotted out of the book of life and salvation. As a mediator, Moses offers to be damned spiritually so the nation of Israel could be saved.

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

5. Substitution – “Forgive their sin – but if not, blot me out of your book” (v. 32)
6. Direction – “Now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken” (v. 34)

But God redirected Moses to a job he could do rather than one he was not able to do. “Go, lead the people.” And Moses did lead the nation up to the promised land and then for forty years in the wilderness he faithfully led them.

But Moses was not able to be the mediator the nation needed because he lacked the final characteristic of the intercessor we need:

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

6. Direction – “Now go, lead the people” (v. 34)

7. **Perfection** – “Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens... the Son who has been made perfect forever.” Hebrews 2:26,28

In the end, Moses could not lead the Israelites into the Promised Land because he failed to trust and obey the Lord completely. He could not bear sin in their place and sacrifice himself as a substitute because he had sin of his own to atone for. Only a mediator who was free from sin completely could bear the sin of another.

Only Jesus is that perfect high priest. Only Jesus is the mediator we all truly need.

- Human priests, like Moses, only live for a little while – but **Jesus has a permanent priesthood** and always lives to make intercession for us.
- Human priests, like Moses, have sin of their own to atone for - but **Jesus is perfectly holy**, righteous and pure.
- Human priests, like Moses, cannot offer themselves but can only sacrifice animals to pay for sin – but **Jesus presented Himself as the perfect substitute for sinners.**
- Therefore human priests, like Moses, can only provide a temporary atonement – but Jesus made a ONCE FOR ALL sacrifice that **provides an ETERNAL ATONEMENT.**
- Listen to Hebrews 2:25:

Seven Characteristics of a Mediator:

7. **Perfection** – “Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is **able to save completely** those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 2:25

Jesus is the perfect mediator – the ultimate high priest. Moses was the best Israel could come up with – the best any human mediator could be. But even Moses could not provide a full and permanent atonement. Only a PERFECT mediator, with no sin of his own, could accomplish that. “He is able to SAVE COMPLETELY those who come to God through Him.”

And, of course, Jesus goes beyond Moses in other ways too.

Characteristics of the Ideal Mediator

1. Incarnation	6. Direction
2. Intercession	7. Perfection
3. Revelation	8. Resurrection
4. Purification	9. Ascension
5. Substitution	10. Session

The mediator we need is one who adds to his perfection the power of his **resurrection**. We need a high priest who has conquered sin and death forever. Jesus not only rose from the dead but

then **ascended** into heaven where he is seated at the right hand of the Father. That is called His **Session** – how Jesus reigns, right now, over all things.

That is the mediator we need. And that is the mediator we HAVE in Christ. The question is no longer whether there is a perfect high priest but ***only whether he is YOUR high priest.***

- Do YOU belong to Jesus?
- Have you pledged yourself, heart, soul and body to Jesus?
- Have you asked Him to atone for your sin? Have you acknowledged your sin? That is the first step for atonement to be made. Do not hide in the shadow of denial, delay or justification. Come into the light where the grace of Jesus can set you free!
- Have you realized that a price must be paid for your sin – that saying “sorry” is not enough? Have you tried long enough to atone for sin yourself and are you now ready to admit you cannot do it – that you need a mediator to help you?
- Have you bowed before Jesus calling on Him to save you, to forgive you, to cover you with His blood? Because He will!
- And He is the only One who can!

Come to Jesus, the great High Priest!

Hebrews 9 says:

“He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption... For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from sins committed under the first covenant.” Hebrews 9:12-15

“He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:26-28