

The Day of Atonement

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Sermon in a Sentence: God loves you where you are, but He loves you too much to leave you there.

Summary: We've all made mistakes, but mistake is too small a word to account for the damage we've done. God calls this sin, and God, being holy, will not allow sin in His presence. Sin breaks relationship, puts us in debt, and causes a mess that spreads everywhere. God created a system to restore the relationship and show us the pain our sin has caused. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of this plan, because God loves you where you are, but He loves you too much to leave you there.

Ice Breaker Questions (Choose one or do them all, everyone answers):

- **What's something good that has happened in the last few weeks?**
- **Talk about a time when you had to do a dirty job** (working on a car, painting, etc)

Diving In:

- Explain the difference between mistake and sin.
- **What actions do you associate with the word sin?**
- **Do you resist the idea of being called a sinner?**
- **What are the consequences of sin?** Romans 3:23, 6:23
 - **Broken Relationship**
 - **Debt owed that leads to slavery**
 - **Impossible mess to clean up**
 - **It shows defects in us**
 - **Our future is uncertain**

- **Read Leviticus 16: 15-34**
 - **What is the purpose of the two goats? How did each help to atone for part of what sin did?** The sacrificial goat paid their debt, the scapegoat removed their sin (for a time).
 - **Why did the ceremony need to be done annually?** It couldn't make them perfect, it showed the heavy problem of sin.

Going Deeper:

- **Read Hebrews 10: 1-4 compare to Hebrews 10: 12-14**
 - Note that the priest in verse 12 is talking about Jesus
- **Read Hebrews 10: 19-25**
 - **What does it mean by the Most Holy Place and the curtain?**
It's the Holy of Holies that the priest entered on the Day of Atonement, which was divided by a curtain to keep others out
 - **Who can enter the Most Holy Place? Why is that significant? Do we need to be afraid to enter?**
 - **Because of the cleansing that came through the sacrifice, what is our response in verses 23-25?**

Read the following scriptures and consider how Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice changed the course of our lives.

Because of what Jesus did:

- 1) Relationship Broken RESTORED**
- 2) Debt owed FORGIVEN**
- 3) Impossible mess CLEANED UP**
- 4) Defects revealed SANCTIFIED**
- 5) Future stolen RECOVERED**

How can we pray for you?