

Leviticus 5:1-19

In Leviticus 5, God lays out instructions for dealing with **specific sins**, especially those where you messed up and knew better—or sometimes didn't realize it until later. The focus here is on owning your mistakes, confessing them, and making things right with God.

When Do You Need a Trespass Offering?

Here are some situations where people were guilty and needed to bring an offering:

1. **Hiding the truth:** If you were a witness to something and stayed silent when you should've spoken up, that's on you.
2. **Touching something unclean:** Whether it was a dead animal or something ceremonially unclean, it made you guilty even if you didn't realize it at first.
3. **Breaking promises:** If you made a vow or swore something carelessly and didn't follow through, that was considered sin too.

What's the Process for Making Things Right?

1. **Confession is key** (verse 5):
 - Before anything else, you had to admit, "I messed up." Hiding, excusing, or rationalizing your mistakes doesn't cut it.
 - Proverbs 28:13 reminds us: *"Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*
2. **Bring an offering:**
 - If you could afford it, you'd bring a **female lamb** or **goat** for your trespass offering.
 - If you didn't have the resources, you could bring **two doves or pigeons**—one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.
 - The priest would handle the sacrifice, making atonement (or covering) for your sin before God.
3. **If it involved sacred things** (verse 15):
 - If you unintentionally disrespected something holy (like mishandling offerings or misusing sacred items), you had to bring a **perfect ram** and repay the value of what was lost, plus 20%.

Why Was Confession So Important?

God wasn't just after rituals—He wanted a relationship. Sin damages that connection, and confession was (and still is) the way to restore it. By saying, "God, I've sinned, and I'm sorry," you

opened the door for forgiveness. God is always ready to forgive, but He waits for us to admit where we've gone wrong.

How Does This Apply to Us?

We don't need to bring animal sacrifices anymore because Jesus has already taken care of all our sins through His death on the cross. But the heart behind these instructions still applies. Here's what we can learn:

1. **Own your mistakes:** Whether it's something small or big, don't make excuses or hide it. When you confess your sins, God promises to forgive you and clean your slate (1 John 1:9).
2. **Make things right:** If your actions have hurt others, seek to repair the damage. Apologize, repay what you owe, or do whatever you can to fix the situation.
3. **God makes forgiveness accessible:** Just like people in ancient Israel had options for what they could offer based on their means, God meets us where we are.

Takeaway

Think of confession as hitting the reset button in your relationship with God. Whether it's something you've done intentionally or unintentionally, don't let guilt keep you stuck. God's forgiveness is always within reach—but you've got to take the first step and own up to your mistakes. And remember, because of Jesus, you don't have to carry the weight of your sin anymore—it's already been paid for.