Episode 035: When One Goat is Just Not Enough (Leviticus 16)

God commanded a great variety of sacrifices from Israel. The burnt offering was a continual offering. In other words, a lamb was constantly being consumed on the altar to remind us the suffering in hell is constant and eternal. The sin offering was for sins *unintentionally* committed. The guilt offering was for *intentional* sins, and the sacrifice varied according to the severity of the sin. Each of these offerings reveals a different aspect of Christ's sacrifice that completely fulfilled and encompassed all of them.

- Which of these has special meaning to you? Explain your choice.

The Day of Atonement required a bull and two goats and revealed two different aspects of Jesus' saving work. The bull was put to death in place of the high priest whose sins deserved death, and one of the goats was also put to death in place of all God's people, who likewise deserved to die for their sins. Jesus fulfilled these sacrifices by taking our place and dying for our sins.

- Discuss what thoughts might have run through a high priest's mind as he went into God's presence in the most holy place carrying the bowl filled with the blood of the bull that died for his sins.

- What thoughts run through your mind when you stand before God's presence holding the Communion cup that carries the blood of God's Son who died for your sins?

The second goat—the scapegoat—shows a slightly different aspect of Jesus' saving work. Here God is laying our sins on His own Son, who would carry them away from us forever. In John 1:29, John the Baptist associated this scapegoat with Jesus. "The next day (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" After His baptism Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by Satan.

- Discuss the freedom that comes from knowing Jesus has taken each and every one of your sins, and carried them away from you forever.