Welcome To BARAH MINISTRIES *a Christian Church* Rory Clark Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church with worldwide impact based in Mesa, AZ...my name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries we worship the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We call Him Lord because He is 100% God. We call Him Jesus Christ because He is 100% true humanity just like you and me. He is God and He is a Person. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 15 to 17 highlight one of the many places where this wonderful Lord we worship is described perfectly ...

COLOSSIANS 1:15

The Lord Jesus Christ is the image (the physical manifestation) of the invisible God (God the Father...and the Lord has the exact same essence as the Father...and) the Lord Jesus Christ is the firstborn over all creation (the Lord preceded all creation and He is the Sovereign God over all creation).

The Lord Himself said that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. So the Lord's presence has made His Father known. The Lord also identifies with creatures through His true humanity...Jesus Christ.

COLOSSIANS 1:16

For by the Lord (God the Son) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through the Lord and for the Lord.

COLOSSIANS 1:17

The Lord Jesus Christ is before all things, and in the Lord all things hold together.

If you ever wondered why the stars don't collide or why the sun doesn't just fall out of the sky, now you know. The Lord holds all things together by the Word of His Power.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Present Your Bodies in Sacrifice

The apostle Paul is the human master of sacrifice. Can you imagine his life...Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verses 1 to 13 describe a bit of it...

EPHESIANS 3:1

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

EPHESIANS 3:2

... if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of God's grace which was given to me for you (The Church Age believer)...

EPHESIANS 3:3

...that by revelation from God there was made known to me by God the Father the mystery, as I wrote to you before in brief.

A mystery is something not previously revealed...

EPHESIANS 3:4

By referring to this (dispensation), when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ...

The mystery? Christ indwelling you...the hope of glory...

EPHESIANS 3:5

...which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed (through me) to the Lord's holy apostles and to the Lord's prophets in the Spirit (EN PNEUMATI)...

EPHESIANS 3:6

...to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and are fellow members of the body of Christ, and are fellow partakers of the promise (of a Messiah), in union with Christ Jesus (EN KRISTO IESU), through dissemination of the gospel...

EPHESIANS 3:7

... of which gospel I (Paul) was made a minister, according to the spiritual gift of God the Father's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power (divine omnipotence).

EPHESIANS 3:8

To me (Paul), the very least of all saints (the worst person of all time), this grace was given to me by God, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ...

EPHESIANS 3:9

...and to bring to light what is the dispensation of the mystery (The Church Age) which for ages has been hidden in the God (the Lord, God the Son) who created all things...

EPHESIANS 3:10

...so that the manifold wisdom of God the Father might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 3:11

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which God the Father carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord...

EPHESIANS 3:12

...in Christ...through whom we believers have boldness and confident access through our faith, in union with Him.

EPHESIANS 3:13

Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

Paul was happy to sacrifice his life for God...both as a zealous unbeliever interested in wiping out the Christian Church...and as a zealous believer in Christ interested in disseminating the gospel of Christ worldwide for the sake of all those who could benefit from it. Welcome to a place where you can learn what sacrifice is so that you can reflect this same sacrifice with your own life to a lost and dying world.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

JESUS LOVES ME Chris Tomlin

Greater love has no one, than to lay down His life for a friend. As believers in Christ, we are friends of the Lord, and we are happy to think about and to celebrate His sacrifice on our behalf at the Cross with our Lord's Supper Celebration as part of this lesson. We begin with a song by Chris Tomlin that reminds us to feel what we already know...the song is JESUS LOVES ME.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Father, thank you for loving us unconditionally...and thank you for demonstrating your unconditional love by sending Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin, to live a sinless life, to be crucified at the hands of godless men...to be buried...and to be resurrected from the dead on the third day to prove that death could not contain His Deity...and thank you most Father, for doing all those things for us while we were sinners...as ungodly, unrighteous, unbelievers...

Help us, Father, to reflect Your sacrifice with our own lives...and to think of others first, just as You do...especially within the marriage relationship...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name... Amen.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Present Your Bodies in Sacrifice

We're studying Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 1, which has several intricate facets...

ROMANS 12:1

Therefore ... I (Paul) ... urge (beseech) you ... brethren (believers in Christ) ... as you keep on being persuaded because of the many mercies of God ... TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES (by choice, not by command ... as) A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE ... acceptable to God the Father ... which is your spiritual service ... worship.

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 1 tells you a "DO" in the Christian Way of Living...DO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE. The Holy Spirit has chosen to use the example of marriage to focus our thoughts concerning the study of PRESENTING OUR BODIES.

We present our bodies voluntarily to marriage.

The Lord gives us relationships, like marriage, so that we will GROW. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

SECOND PETER 3:18

...GROW within the sphere of grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory...both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

There is nothing that can help us grow faster than relationships like marriage. Are you growing?

Relationships start when you "PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE." At the start, we fall in love. Nothing good happens when we are falling. After we are in a marriage relationship, often we fall out of love. Nothing good happens when we are falling.

This falling phase is similar to our use of charcoal lighter fluid to ignite charcoal on our grills. The lighter fluid ignites a fire, but the fire quickly fades. If the foundation of the charcoals has not been set in such a way that the fading flame will set the coals on fire so that they can begin their slow burn, the fire goes out.

Many relationships are like this. The chemical nature of attraction phase loves ignites a flame, but if there is no foundation set for the relationship, and the fading flame burns out before it has a chance to catch and to lead to something lasting. And then the fatal lie... "Maybe it just wasn't meant to

be." Last week, we looked at three of the foundational aspects of marriage, and we asked you to assess how well you have cared for them if you are in a marriage or thinking about being in a marriage.

Thanks to all of you who have been so encouraging about these lessons. They seem to be hitting home in the right way...not in a guilt way. I appreciate the feedback.

God has given us the gift of time. You have time and your spouse has time.

<Insert You-Them Diagram with the word Time in the box>

How much **intentional** time, scheduled time, do you spend with your spouse each week? Many of the people who gave feedback about the lessons answered this one predictably...NOT MUCH. So the question is, "What happens to the relationship if you don't spend the time with each other?" The answer is obvious. You can't nurture a relationship without spending time together. Relationships require the sacrifice of your time.

God has given us the gift of Himself. You and your spouse have a relationship with God as believers in Christ. It is called your spiritual life.

<Insert You-Them Diagram with the word GOD in the box>

If deep, intimate, and personal relationships require time, how much of your time are you and your spouse giving to the study of the Word of God... TOGETHER...so that you can develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with God? How much do you discuss God and His Word and it's applicability to your marriage? Many of the people who gave feedback about the lessons answered this one predictably...NOT MUCH. So the question is, "What happens to your relationship with God if you don't spend the time with Him?" And what happens to your relationship with your spouse if you don't introduce God and His Word into the problem resolution process? Again, the answer is obvious. You can't nurture a relationship with God requires the sacrifice of your time. And if you don't use your relationship with God and His Word to resolve disputes in your marriage relationship, then the marriage relationship often just becomes a power struggle...a competition. Instead of being on the same side, realizing that

you are on each other's side, with both of you facing and resolving your problems together, interactions become the two of you whacking each other over the head.

God has given us the gift of health. You and your spouse have a relationship with these bodies you are presenting as living and holy sacrifices.

<Insert You-Them Diagram with the word HEALTH in the box>

Are you taking care of yourself? In answering this question, I wonder how many of you set up a doctor's appointment...I wonder how many of you spent any time at all reflecting on your health.

So when we talk about the idea of the lighter fluid of attraction phase love lighting the coals of a relationship...a friend of mine said, these different things we are reviewing ARE the coals of a relationship that have to light...TIME... GOD...HEALTH. He's correct about that.

Marriage requires you to sacrifice. What is sacrifice?

SACRIFICE

The surrender or the complete destruction of something you value for the sake of something that has a higher value.

Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 5 to 8 communicate the attitude of sacrifice...

PHILIPPIANS 2:5

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

...who, although He existed with the same essence as God the Father (Deity), did not regard equality with God the Father as a thing to be grasped and held onto...

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

...but the Lord emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant (Jesus Christ), and being made in the likeness of men (true humanity).

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled (that is ...humiliated) Himself by (taking on this human form)...becoming obedient to the point of death...even death on a Cross.

Our Lord sacrificed something valuable to Himself, the proper function of Deity, in favor of something much more valuable to Him...YOU! He went to a Cross to ensure that you could be saved. Sacrifice! Are you giving up something valuable to you...SELF...for the higher calling of US in the marriage?

Let's take a quick music break...when we return, we'll take the offering, we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper, and then we'll move on to the next coal that has to be lit...money...a look at the finances in a marriage.

The cowboy actor Will Rogers said people are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be. Here's Pharrell Williams to remind you to be happy.

MUSIC BREAK HAPPY Pharrell Williams

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Present Your Bodies in Sacrifice

Let's begin the next portion of our lesson by giving you a chance to make an offering...we need and we value your financial support to continue the work of this ministry...please welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with the offering message.

THE OFFERING Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,//always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,//in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

OFFERING

FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE Dave McClure, Instrumental

THE LORD'S SUPPER CELEBRATION Sacrifice Requires a Listening Ear

Today, just as we do every month...we celebrate the Lord's Supper...a meal of remembrance. It's a way to demonstrate our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We eat, by breaking bread...we drink, by tasting the fruit of the vine...and we look back to the Cross...one of the most significant demonstrations of LOVE and SACRIFICE in divine history. First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 26 says...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the significance of the Lord's death until He comes.

At the Lord's Supper Celebration, as a gathering of believers in Christ, we remember the Lord's death on the Cross which paid the price for Adam's sin...the sin that is credited to the account of all mankind at physical birth...the sin resulting in spiritual death for all of us from the moment of birth. First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 (the first part)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:22

For all those in union with Adam (at physical birth...and that's everyone) is set to die the second death in the Lake of Fire...

At the Lord's Supper Celebration, we remember the shedding of the Lord's blood to cleanse us from the unrighteousness caused by Adam's sin...it's the unrighteousness of a creature turning away from his Creator. We remember with gladness that the Lord Jesus Christ made a way for His creatures to be

reconciled to Him...to be in fellowship with Him...by dying on a Cross... and by being resurrected from the dead three days later. His resurrection from the dead proved that He is Deity...death could not contain the Lord Jesus Christ...and His resurrection gave all mankind hope...a cure for our unrighteousness at birth. First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 24 says...

FIRST PETER 2:24

...and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself bore our sins in His own body on the Cross, so that we might die to the sovereignty of sin and so that we might live to righteousness...for by Christ's wounds you were healed.

And now we believers in Christ KNOW, through the infallible Word of God, the Bible, that the Lord Jesus Christ is seated victorious at the right hand of His Father's throne, waiting for the moment when God the Father will make the Lord's enemies a footstool for His feet. As believers in Christ, we are seated there with Him, in union with Him, positionally, on victorious ground, waiting for that glorious time when He comes again, and us with Him, in glory. And we KNOW that "the Christ," the Messiah, made it possible for "whosoever," for all creatures, to be saved by what He did at the Cross. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31 says…

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

Because of the Cross, the Lord was able to make a series of magnificent promises to His creatures...like the ones He made in Revelation, Chapter 3, Verses 20 to 22...

REVELATION 3:20

"Behold, I (the Lord Jesus Christ) stand at the door (of your soul) and I keep on knocking...if anyone hears My voice and opens the door (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), I will come in to him (indwelling him) and I will dine with him (in fellowship), and he will dine with Me."

REVELATION 3:21

"He who overcomes (the believer in Christ), I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on

His throne."

REVELATION 3:22

"He who has an ear...let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

For us to take advantage of the Lord's promises we have to hear them... which requires a listening ear. It is to our advantage to get ourselves into a quiet place, free from distractions, and to let Him talk to us through His Word.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was a great listener...He listened to His Father and did everything His Father told Him to do...John, Chapter 14, Verse 10...

JOHN 14:10

(Philip)...do you not believe that I am in God the Father, and that God the Father is indwelling Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but God the Father abiding in Me (speaking to Me) does His works.

Satan, the enemy of God, attacks our listening ears. He makes insidious suggestion and seemingly innocuous insinuations that attack our psyches. They work when we listen to them. Remember what Satan did to Eve in the garden? It was an attack on her ears. Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 1...

GENESIS 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the Lord God had made. And the serpent said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Eve would have been wise to handle Satan the way the Lord handles him. The Lord Jesus Christ refuses to listen to Satan. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 1 to 4...

MATTHEW 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by God the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Satan).

MATTHEW 4:2

And after Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

MATTHEW 4:3

And the tempter (Satan) came and said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, and of course you are, command that these stones become bread."

MATTHEW 4:4

But Jesus answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on physical food alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.""

Jesus Christ was not about to disobey His Father by listening to Satan, the father of all lies. And in Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 10...

MATTHEW 4:10

Then Jesus said to Satan, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

The Lord listened only to His Father.

The Lord Jesus Christ speaks to us believers through His Word...and He wants us to listen...Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17 say...

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:16

All Scripture is God breathed and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:17

...so that the man of God may be made mature by God, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Lord wants us to listen only to Him. Deuteronomy, Chapter 12, Verse 28...

DEUTERONOMY 12:28

"Be careful to listen to all these words which I command you, so that it may be well with you and so that it may go well with your sons after you forever,

for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God (when you listen to His Words)."

Let he who has an ear let Him hear what the Lord's sacrifice at the Cross demanded...a listening ear.

THE LORD'S SUPPER CELEBRATION: Enjoying the Elements

Following God's request, we keep on celebrating CHRIST and His Cross on a regular basis...we eat to remember who He is as a PERSON...we drink to remember His WORK, the voluntary sacrifice He made at the Cross on our behalf as our sin substitute...and we are grateful for what God has done for us. First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 23 and 24 say...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:23

For I, Paul received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus Christ on the night in which He was betrayed took bread...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:24

...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is, and keeps on being My body, which is broken for you…keep on doing this celebration for the purpose of remembering Me."

When we eat the bread during the Lord's Supper Celebration, we remember the Lord Jesus Christ AS A PERSON.

When we drink the cup, we remember THE WORK of the Lord Jesus Christ. First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 25 and 26 say...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:25

In the same way the Lord Jesus Christ took the cup after supper, representing His death on the Cross, saying, "This cup is a new testament forged with My blood...keep on doing this celebration...and as often as you drink it...do so for the purpose of remembering Me."

FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup (as part of the Lord's Supper Celebration), you proclaim (as a reality and you announce the

significance of) the Lord Jesus Christ's death (on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead) until He comes (again in the second coming).

As you enjoy the bread and the cup, enjoy the memory of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well. Now and always, let us keep on giving thanks that we are loved unconditionally and accepted fully by THE LORD WHO IS ALWAYS THERE...the One we can depend on...let's keep on being transformed by His life and His death and His Word...and let's enjoy His unconditional love Day by Day...and that's the name of our Lord's Supper song.

LORD'S SUPPER SONG

DAY BY DAY Godspell

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Present Your Bodies in Sacrifice

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 1...

ROMANS 12:1

Therefore ... I (Paul) ... urge (beseech) you ... brethren (believers in Christ) ... as you keep on being persuaded because of the many mercies of God ... TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES (by choice, not by command ... as) A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE ... acceptable to God the Father ... which is your spiritual service ... worship.

God blesses us with money. You and your spouse are asked to be good stewards of the Lord's financial blessings.

<Insert You-Them Diagram with the word FINANCES in the box>

How competent are you at handling money? The Lord has much to say about finances...Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 11...

PROVERBS 13:11

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers wealth by labor increases wealth little by little.

Spouses have much to consider in the matter of finances...income... expenses...debt...savings. Are you committed to becoming competent in these areas? Or are you turning your finances over to "brokers" who are committed to making you broker? Worse yet, are you turning over your finances to each other? Are you ignoring your finances?

In the matter of income, are both of you capable of bringing income into the relationship? A better question...are both of you *actually* bringing money into the relationship? Do you both have "skin in the financial game?" In the past, it was expected that the man is to go out and work, and the woman is to stay home to raise the kids. The man enjoyed his role as the provider, and the woman appreciated being provided for. That is hardly the situation today. When that situation exists, it's a different story. When the man is the provider, quite often he has to spend a lot of his time on the road. That means the woman has to spend a lot of time alone raising the kids. Nowhere in the fairy tales did a woman ever hear that she would be raising the kids alone. So many women in this situation put a lot of pressure on the man to be at home more. If the truth is told, in a one income household that's quite impossible. Rarely do couples with this dilemma just sit down and really assess the situation to decide how they're going to cope with their reality.

By the way, men...women don't appreciate the role of breadwinner. They may never say that to you, but they don't like it. That's not my opinion.

In the matter of outgo, expenses, it seems acceptable if one person in the relationship is financially irresponsible in the matter of expenses. Often one person will spend-spend-spend without regard for whether or not they are spending less than is coming in. Worse yet, one person will spend-spend-spend-spend without discussion with or approval from the other person. It's a prescription for financial disaster. And by the way, just because you got it on sale doesn't make it a smart purchase.

In the matter of savings, rarely does it happen. Instead of paying yourself first, the bills take priority. There's always too much month left at the end of the money, and savings never accumulate. We've heard the expression, "save for a rainy day," but without savings, when the inevitable financial disaster hits…like someone being laid off from a job… there is no financial back up. There is no emergency fund. Bankruptcy.

Then there is debt...the wrong kind of debt...where couples consistently spend more than they make and accumulate the debt on high interest credit cards. In Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 8, Paul says...

ROMANS 13:8 *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another unconditionally...*

VISA is actually paying merchants not to accept cash. Why? Because they want you to "charge it" so they can charge you interest...usury level interest.

There are quite a few financial tricks to learn...things the wealthy do that others don't even thing about...like overpaying a whole life insurance policy...like a disability policy with a refund provision.

What is sacrifice?

SACRIFICE

The surrender or the complete destruction of something you value for the sake of something that has a higher value.

Marriage requires sacrifice...and the sacrifice is taking care of the foundation, and taking care of the other person, before thinking about SELF.

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

In John, Chapter 3, Verse 3, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself gives instruction on how to be saved to a religious Pharisee...Nicodemus...

JOHN 3:3

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (the spiritual birth) he cannot see the kingdom of God."

JOHN 3:4

Nicodemus said to the Lord, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

JOHN 3:5

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of the water of the Word (the gospel message) and the (baptism by God the Holy) Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

JOHN 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh (that which comes from mortals is mortal), and that which is born (again) of the (baptism of the) Spirit is spirit."

JOHN 3:7

"Do not be amazed (Nicodemus) that I (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to you, 'You must be born again.""

JOHN 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life (the resurrection life) right at that moment...but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life, but the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to Thomas, the doubting apostle, "I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (the Word of God)...and (I am) the (resurrection) life (eternal life)...and no one comes to God the Father but through believing in Me."

CLOSING SONG

OH HAPPY DAY June Murphy

CLOSING PRAYER *Let us pray...*

THANKS - INTERCESSION - PETITION

Thanks for coming! Thanks for watching! Thanks for listening! www.barahministries.com