

24 August 2014 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/JAM.

Readings: Isaiah 51:1–6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1–8;
Matthew 16:13–20.



Theme: *A living sacrifice* (Paul’s plea) - **Romans 12:1**, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”



I. SEES GOD’S MERCY.

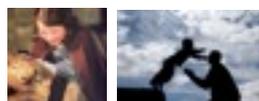
Romans 12:1, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God’s mercy**, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Isaiah 51:1, “**Look to the rock** from which you were cut.”

1 Corinthians 3:11, “For no one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Matthew 16:16-17, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not **revealed** to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.” **Matthew 16:21**, “From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: “The table had carved onto it numerous symbols and characters, which translated into the law of Narnia itself. One of those laws was that any traitor would belong to the White Witch, meaning she would have a right to a kill. During the Long Winter, she would often use the table as an altar, on which she would sacrifice important victims.”



II. SURRENDERS.

Romans 12:1, “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Not to make God love you more, but because He loves you as you.
To be empowered and know His love more fully; An act of worship.



III. TRANSFORMS.

Romans 12:2, “be transformed.” = “be transfigured.”

A. By not conforming to this world.

Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world...”

MSG: “Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.”

J.B. Phillips: “Don’t let the world around you **squeeze you** into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within”

B. By changing their minds (*repentance*).

Romans 12:2, “but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Richard Rohr: “Although Jesus’ first preached message is clearly ‘change’ where he told his listeners to *repent*, which literally means to ‘change your mind,’ it did not strongly influence Christian history.”

CONCLUSION: *Sacrificial living—the gift of faith in God transforms every aspect of our lives. Transformed people transform the world.*

Acts 17:6, “...These that have turned the world **upside down** are come hither also.” **Romans 12:2**, “...Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — **his good, pleasing and perfect will.**”