



# Plastic Donuts: Video #1



**Generosity**  
by LifeWay.

## Plastic Donuts: Video #1

### Notes

### A. Genesis 4:3-5 (NLT)

When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift – the best of the first-born lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

### WE LEARN FROM THE EARLIEST GIFTS....

1. God was interested in their gifts. Of course God didn't need gifts of any kind. Yet He still desired them.

The word "accepted" [regarded, respected] comes from the Hebrew word "sha'ah" - means "to gaze at, to look upon, to pay attention to."

2. Not all gifts are the same  
Some gifts are acceptable to God while others are not. Some gifts delight the heart of God while others do not.

### Acceptable Gift – gifts that Please God

- "acceptable" – means pleasing
- Psalm 19:14 – let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable [pleasing] in your sight.
- Acceptable Gifts satisfy, please, delight the heart of God.

### B. Genesis 8:20-21

Then Noah build an altar... he offered burnt offerings on it. When the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma...

Pleasing aroma [heb. Nichowach] – soothing, quieting, tranquilizing

### C. Leviticus 1:3, 9

If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd he is to offer a male without defect, so that it will be acceptable to the Lord. (v3)

...it is an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. (v9)

The Israelites knew God was pleased when the fire from above came down and consumed the altar.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's children brought acceptable gifts seeking to please Him.

#### **D. Ephesians 5:2 –**

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

#### **WHAT ABOUT TODAY?**

Paul says (Philippians 4:17-18 NIV)

"I am amply supplied now that I have received.... the gifts you sent."

The gifts have been credited to your account (v17)

They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God (v18)

Our gifts can have great power. Not only can they solve problems, meet needs, store up treasure for our future – they can DELIGHT THE HEART OF GOD

This brings us to the question: How can I give an Acceptable Gift to God?

#### **4. ACCEPTABLE GIFT Truths**

The Amount Matters

We Determine the Amount

We are to Give According to our Ability

The Heart Makes the Gift Count

#### **Next Step Application Questions**

##### **Plastic Donuts – Video #1**

How does the story of the plastic donut make you think differently about financial giving?

Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:16-18, there are three parties to our gifts: the giver, the recipient and God. Why is it that we often overlook God's personal interest in our giving?

How might seeing your gifts from God's perspective cause you to give differently? What practical steps might you take in response to this message (i.e. prayerfully review your giving; discuss your gift patterns with spouse, etc.)

Have you read Plastic Donuts? Reach out to Jeff at [Jeff@JeffAndersonAuthor.com](mailto:Jeff@JeffAndersonAuthor.com) and he'd be happy to send you a free evaluation copy.

## Notes