



# For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

<sup>10</sup> “I will set my face against any Israelite or any foreigner residing among them who eats blood, and I will cut them off from the people. <sup>11</sup> For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I say to the Israelites, “None of you may eat blood, nor may any foreigner residing among you eat blood.” (*Leviticus 17:10-12*)

These verses come from the book of Leviticus, which is a collection of guidelines that the priests (descendants of Levi) were to follow and to instruct the people to follow. These particular verses speak to the significance of blood, which was considered the life-essence of a person or animal.

When an animal was brought for sacrifice, it was cut at the throat and the blood was drained into a basin. This blood was captured and typically poured at the base of the alter after blood was sprinkled on the alter where the animal was burned. The burned portion of the animal was considered a gift to God, who ate it, as the worshipper and/or priests ate the remainder of the animal. The blood was dedicated to God and considered a drink for God as it was poured into the earth.

As the verses above explain, humans were not to eat an animal that still had the blood in it (raw). This may have been for health and safety reasons, but it certainly was for religious purposes. That was stealing God’s drink offering and consuming the life-force of the animal.



## REFLECTION:

Consider this background as it pertains to the woman with a blood flow in Mark 5.

## PRACTICE:

Send a note or message to someone that needs reminded that their life matters.