

# Deuteronomy 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

## Analysis

**And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God**—Blemished animals (מַמְלֵא, mum, 'defect, flaw') are unacceptable offerings. God deserves **the best**, not leftovers. Malachi confronts Israel: **Ye offer polluted bread...and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee?...Ye offered the blind for sacrifice...offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee?** (Malachi 1:7-8).

The blemish requirement foreshadows Christ: **a lamb without blemish and without spot** (1 Peter 1:19). His sinless perfection qualified Him as the ultimate sacrifice. The standard calls worshipers to excellence: **Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God** (1 Corinthians 10:31). Offering God our second-best (leftover time, minimal effort, token generosity) insults His worth. He gave His flawless Son; we owe wholehearted devotion.

## Historical Context

Temple priests examined animals for blemishes before accepting sacrifices (Leviticus 22:17-25). This quality control maintained worship standards and prevented Israelites from treating God casually—offering diseased animals they couldn't sell while keeping healthy stock for personal profit.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What 'blemished' offerings (half-hearted obedience, leftover time, token generosity) are you tempted to give God?
2. How does Christ's perfect sacrifice (unblemished Lamb) both judge and enable your worship?
3. In what specific areas is God calling you to 'first-quality' devotion rather than convenient minimums?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ וְ יְהִי הָאָזֶן מִזְבֵּחַ פָּסֶה אַתְּ  
H3588 H1961 H0 And if there be any blemish therein as if it be lame H176  
H3971 H6455

עֵזֶר כְּלָעֵזֶר מִזְבֵּחַ עַל אַתְּ  
or blind H3605 And if there be any blemish or have any ill H3808  
H5787 H3971 H7451

אֱלֹהִים לִיהְיוֹת תִּזְבְּחַת כְּלָעֵזֶר  
thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God H430  
H2076 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 17:1** (Sacrifice): Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

