



“A Lesson On Reverence” (Leviticus 8-10)

Danny Hodges – OT3501

Chapter Eight

Read 8:1-14, 18, 22-24

vv.23-24 The things we hear, what we do with our hands, and where we go with our feet can pollute us, so we need the blood to cleanse us. Jesus washing the disciples’ feet, and Peter wanting Jesus to wash his whole body. Jesus said that he who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, implying that walking in the world can get us dirty and in need of a fresh cleansing in the area where the dirt is.

Read 8:30, 33-36

Chapter Nine

Read all of chapter 9

v.24 There is joy, but there is also reverence. See Hebrews 12:18-29. The blood of Abel cried out for vengeance, the blood of Jesus forgiveness. We should overflow with joy, but we must not lose our sense of reverence and awe.

I Peter 2:5 You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light.

The sons of Aaron represent the whole body of believers in Christ, a priestly people. Aaron represents Jesus Christ, our great high priest who is set apart from all other priests.

Chapter Ten:

10:1-2 What made this fire “unauthorized?”

* Could it be that in the excitement of the moment (9:24), they went beyond what the Lord had directed, perhaps venturing beyond the boundaries in the Tent of Meeting? (See Lev.16:1-2).

* Did they light their censers from somewhere other than the altar?

* Were they inebriated? (See 10:8-9)

- How many foolish acts have been committed as a result of an intoxicating substance!

* We are not told exactly what made this fire unauthorized. The truth is it could have been any number of things. The point is that it **was** unauthorized. They knew better. Nadab and Abihu lost their sense of reverence for the Lord, and it cost them their lives.

- Reverence: To regard with fear mingled with respect and affection (1828 Noah Webster American Dictionary of the English Language).

10:3-7 Even in ordinary cases, restrictions were placed upon Aaron and his sons regarding outward signs of mourning. But exceptions were made in the case of closest kin, especially the death of a son, or a brother (See Lev.21:1-2). In this case, however, permission could not be given. Aaron and his two remaining sons were not to show public expressions of grief, because to do so would be a contradiction between their actions and their priestly position.

10:8-9 This is the reason for the possibility that they were intoxicated when they approached the Lord.

10:10-20 The law didn't allow Aaron to express his grief in the usual ways, but it didn't forbid him to fast, and fasting was his way of showing his grief for the loss of his two sons. He & his remaining sons no doubt had no appetite anyway after such a tragic loss.

LESSONS

1. There is a sin unto death.

- See Joshua 7 (Achan); II Sam.6:6-8; I John 5:16-17; I Cor.11:26-32; Acts 5:1-11.
- Note: Why did Nadab and Abihu have to die, while King David was allowed to live after his sins of adultery and murder? Some might charge God with showing favoritism toward David, but this cannot be true. I personally believe that God is teaching a different lesson in each incident. In the case of Nadab and Abihu, it is a lesson in reverence. In David's case, it is a lesson in grace & mercy. See Romans 4:4-8.

2. God does not show favoritism.

- Rom.2:11; Gal.2:6; Eph.6:9
- Priestly robes and privileges do not allow one to violate God's holiness.

3. The greater the honor bestowed, the more strict the judgment

- James 3:1...we who teach will be judged more strictly.
- See Luke 12:47-48

4. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

- See I Sam.15:20-22

5. After times of great glory, beware of potential for great defeat.

- Jericho and Ai, Elijah after Carmel

6. Stupid is as stupid does

- Nadab and Abihu had a legacy of great spiritual experiences. Not only had they seen all the miracles God and done in bringing the nation out of Egypt, they heard the voice of God, witnessed the fire, lightning & thunder at Mount Sinai. They had also gone up with Moses, Aaron, and the seventy elders for a special meeting with God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:1-2), where they *saw the God of Israel . . . so they saw God, and they ate and drank* (Exodus 24:9-11). Despite these tremendous privileges, they made a stupid & foolish decision.

CHALLENGES

1. Not developing an attitude against God for his actions.
 - Refer to II Sam.6:6-8a
2. Inappropriate public remorse in response to God's judgment against rebellion.
 - David's public remorse at the death of Absalom (II Sam.18:24- 19:7).
3. Standing with ordained leaders against rebellion.
 - See Num.16:1-3, 8-10, 16-18, 35-41; Exodus 32:25-29; II Cor.2: 6 The punishment inflicted on him by ***the majority*** is sufficient for him.
 - Situations at CCSP where the body has not been unified in disciplinary actions taken against certain individuals

CONCLUSION

I Peter 1: 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.