

Leviticus 10

12-21-00

“False Fire!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Last chapters:
 - 1.1.1. The priest had just been made holy.
 - 1.1.2. Fire just fell from heaven in a positive way (read 9:22-24).
 - 1.1.3. Fire’s about to fall in a bad way!
 - 1.1.4. **William’s** in his commentary said, “Man always & immediately fails when placed in any position of responsibility & glory. Adam, Noah, Moses, Solomon, the Apostles, the Hebrew & Christian churches are all sad proofs of this fact.”
- 1.2. **Great blessings**(last chapter) often lead to **great temptations!**(this chapter)
 - 1.2.1. **Jesus** – after His baptism(voice from heaven) right into the temptations of the wilderness.
 - 1.2.2. **Elijah** – Ran after great victory on Carmel.
- 1.3. It sure didn’t take long for sin to enter the priesthood.
- 1.4. Chapter 10 shows us what happens when Gods laws are taken lightly.
 - 1.4.1. God has never taken **worship** lightly...& neither should we!
- 1.5. **Outline deals with 4 of Aaron’s sons:**
 - 1.5.1. **Strange Fire!** (Nadab & Abihu)(1-11); & **A Strange Fast!** (Eleazar & Ithamar)

2. STRANGE FIRE! (1-11)

- 2.1. **OBEY THE LETTER OF THE LAW!** (1-3)
 - 2.1.1. 11 times in ch.8,9 we saw the phrase “the Lord commanded”.
 - 2.1.2. Here **Nadab & Abihu** did what the lord had **not** commanded!
 - 2.1.3. **Ex.19:22** “Also let the **priests** who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.”
- 2.2. **Their sins?** - it was no mere peccadillo! (small fault)
 - 2.2.1. **Everything they did was wrong!**

- 2.2.2. **Everything they did was wrong!**
- 2.2.3. **[1] The wrong People** – High Priest only. See - Ex.30:7-10
- 2.2.4. **[2] The wrong Instruments** – They used **their** censors & not the High Priests. See - Ex.40:9
- 2.2.5. **[3] The wrong Time** – Only annually on the Day of Atonement.(16:1)
- 2.2.5.1. They appear to have offered it at a time not prescribed – “**which he had not commanded them**”.
- 2.2.6. **[4] The wrong Authority** – They didn’t consult w/Moses or their Dad – They didn’t follow the word of God.
- 2.2.7. **[5] The wrong Fire** – They were commanded to use coals from the brazen altar. (See 16:12)
- 2.2.7.1. Their incense was not lighted from the altar – “**profane fire**”.
- 2.2.7.2. NIV says “**unauthorized fire**”.
- 2.2.7.3. They were thus saying, “**God our fire is as good as yours!**”
- 2.2.7.4. **Interesting** - They were “**devoured**” by the fire; **but** their priestly raiment was **not** burnt (like the tabernacle was not burnt) (see 5).
- 2.2.7.5. God answers false fire with real fire!...& he’s a crack shot every time!
- 2.2.7.6. **Q:** I wonder if we are guilty of “**cigarette lighter worship**”? {I.e. Coming up with our own flame!}
- 2.2.7.7. Pass on the warmth of worship! – It can’t be manufactured! – It should be passed on.
- 2.2.7.7.1. **"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."**
- 2.2.8. **[6] The wrong Place** – (2) “**Before the lord**” – seems to imply they pressed (w/in the veil) into the Holy of Holies. (See 16:1,2)
- 2.2.9. **[7] The wrong Motive** – They didn’t seek to glorify God alone (3).
- 2.2.9.1. Must have been **pride** in them. **Their desire wasn’t to sanctify & glorify the Lord, but to promote themselves & be important.**
- 2.2.10. **[8] The wrong Energy** – They seemed to be under the influence of alcohol.

- 2.3. Those who have access to God have responsibility as well as privilege.
- 2.3.1. Verse 3 is our **central theme** stating the 2 things God requires from those who approach Him. (**Honor & Glory**)
- 2.3.2. Our worship must be based on **His word** & must **glorify** Him.
- 2.3.3. Our worship must be **acceptable** to Him & show **forth His Praises**.
- 2.4. **“If every child of God were killed who substituted fleshly energy for the power of the Spirit, not many would be left!”**
- 2.4.1. **Q:** So why does He seem to some times respond w/**fire** & other times with **forgiveness**?
- 2.4.2. It seems at the beginning of **new periods** in redemptive history, God judged sin in a dramatic way so that people would learn to fear
- 2.4.2.1. **Examples:** Joshua 7 (sin of Achon)“new promise land era”; Acts 5 (Ananias & Sapphira)“new church era”.
- 2.5. **GRIEF!** (4-7)
- 2.5.1. They were warned against any public display of grief, because they represented God & must not question His sovereign act of righteous judgement.
- 2.6. **(6)** The principle is the same in **Mt.8:21,22** “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”
- 2.6.1. Disheveled hair & torn clothes showed a sign of mourning.
- 2.7. **DRUNKENNESS!** (8-11)
- 2.7.1. This is the only place where God spoke directly to Aaron.
- 2.8. Did their sin have something to do with strong drink?
- 2.8.1. Were they under the influence of alcohol when they committed their acts of sacrilege?
- 2.8.2. An inebriated condition **clouds judgment & removes distinctions** between sacred & profane.
- 2.8.3. Note contrast - **Lk.1:15** “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall **drink neither wine nor strong drink**. He will also be **filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.**”
- 2.9. Paul’s admonition in Eph.5:18 is appropriate here, “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,**”

- 2.9.1. There is no acceptable substitute in ministry for the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. **STRANGE FAST! (12-20)**

- 3.1. **EATING THE OFFERINGS!** (12-15)
- 3.1.1. In chapter 9 they had offered the offerings, now they are to eat their portions as part of the service.
- 3.2. **OBEY THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW!** (16-20)
- 3.2.1. Aaron obeyed the spirit of the commandment but not the letter.
- 3.2.1.1. **2 Cor.3:5,6** "...our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the **letter** but of the **Spirit**; for the **letter** kills, but the **Spirit** gives life."
- 3.2.2. **Moses** looked at the outward appearance, but **God** looked on the heart.
- 3.2.3. **God knows & understands your heart even when others are critical.**
- 3.2.3.1. **1 Jn.3:20-21** "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God."
- 3.2.4. Aaron **fasted** (which wasn't forbidden) to show his grief of his 2 sons.
- 3.3. **Q:** Is your worship a "mechanical routine" or a "holy meal"?
- 3.3.1. **Counterfeit worship** grieves the Spirit of God!
- 3.3.2. God has "given us an entrance"...but it is still **into** the "Holy of Holies"!
- 3.3.2.1. **Heb.10:19** "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to **enter** the **Holiest** by the blood of Jesus,"
- 3.4. I think this chapter brings out the **balance** of obeying the "Holy **exactness**" of God's Word, & learning to discern "the **Spirit of the Law**"!
- 3.4.1. **Heb.5:13,14** "For everyone who partakes only of **milk** is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But **solid food** belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern both good and evil.**"
- 3.5. **God has never taken worship lightly...& neither should we!**