

12/27/92

Disobedience Is Profane Fire To God
Leviticus 10:1-3

The tabernacle has been erected, anointed and the Shekinah glory of God has appeared. Instruction for the sacrifices have been received, the priesthood consecrated inaugurated.

Now for the first time Aarons sons partake in the worship of God, offering profane fire before the Lord and God devoured them with fire Lev.10:1-3.

- Why?
- What was their sin?
- Does God still deal this way with man?
- What are we to understand and learn from this section of Scripture?

As we look to our text this morning I want to take a different approach.

- I.** The sin of Aaron's sons vs.1-3.
- II.** The sin repeated by people in Scripture.
- III.** The sin practiced today.

I. The sin of Aaron's sons vs.1-3.

- A.** The nature of their sins was disobedience vs.1.
 - 1.** Some have declared that they attempted to enter the Holy of Holies and there is some scriptural evidence to support this 16:1-2.
 - 2.** Others say they offered it at the wrong time but scripture is lacking.

3. Their sin was that they offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them vs.1d.

- **strange** - (**zur**) basic meaning is to "turn aside".

- used of Job's friends who had become estranged Job 19:13.

- used of a stranger to another household, person, land, and a strange woman or adulterous.

Deut.25:5, Prov.14:10, Hos.7:9, Prov.5:3

a. The common idea is that of not being rightly related to and removal from mutual identity.

b. Nadab and Abihu had deviated from the prescribed manner of worship, God had commanded! 1 Sam.15:22.

* Obedience is the key to Ch. 8-10, 8:4, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 29, 34, 36, 9:6, 7, 10, 21, 10:1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 12, 13, 16, 18.

B. The reason for their sin could of been two-fold.

- 1.** They could of been so excited at the appearance of the Lord's glory and in an emotional response to occasion His glory again they offered the profane fire 9:23-24.
- 2.** They could of been intoxicated enough to impair their sound judgment and approached the alter irreverently, offering profane fire 10:8-11.

C. The failure of their sin is said to be two-fold vs.3.

- 1.** They didn't regard God Holy by their actions.
 - * 83 times "Holy" appears in Leviticus.

2. They didn't regard God's glory by their attitude.
 - * God says He will not give His glory to another Is.42:8.
 3. They didn't honor the prescribed manner of worship but entered into "will worship".
 - * Col.2:18-23 says it is false humility.
 - Uzziah was struck dead because he touched the ark for it was not to be transported by the Philistines or touched except by the Levites 2 Sam.6:1-6.
 - a. "Will worship" disregards God's revelation Jn.4:24.
 - b. "Will worship" displays works of the flesh Rom.8:5-8. "I will worship as I please or feel."
- D.** The consequence of their sin was death vs.2.
1. Their death was God's direct judgment not an accident for their tunics miraculously had not been consumed, only they vs.5, Ex.19:22.
 - * Sin with a high hand was unpardonable Ex.4:8, Num.15:30.
 2. Their death though painful was acknowledged as just by Aaron, as he held his peace vs.3e.
 - **peace** means silence, no sound passed through his lips.
 3. Their death was due to privilege and knowledge Ex.24:1, Amos 3:1-3, Lk.12:48.
 4. Their God was a consuming fire Deut.4:24.
 - * He remains the same today! Heb.12:25-29, 1 Cor.10:29-30, 1 Jn.5:16.

ILLUSTRATION

R.W. Tozer said, "I believe that in any setting, the tendency to place personal feelings above the Scriptures is always an insult to God.

II. Their sin ignored by others in Scripture.

- A. Cain thought he could worship God in outward formality and ritual with an impure heart Gen.4:1-7.
 1. The law allowed 1/10 of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering Lev.5:11.
 2. The scripture says that Cain was wicked and his works were evil 1 Jn.3:10-12.
- B. Korah thought he could accuse Moses and Aaron of controlling the priesthood and still honor God in worship Num.16:1-40.
 1. His company was not small, 250 men 16:1-2.
 2. His and their sin was that they thought their charge to do the work of the tabernacle was a small thing and desired the priesthood 16:3-11.
 3. God swallowed up Korah, Dathan and Abiram as the earth split and consumed the 250 men offering incense with fire 16:20-35.
 4. God took the censers of those men and hammered them out as a covering for the brass altar as a memorial to all who would intrude into the priesthood 16:31-40.
- C. Eli's sons thought they could lead people to worship without knowing God 1 Sam.2-3.
 1. They were corrupt causing the people to abhor the offering to the Lord and laid with the women who came to the door of the Tabernacle 2:12, 17, 22.
 2. They didn't heed the voice of their father because the Lord desired to kill them 2:25.

3. Eli was guilty also because he honored his sons more than God and he did not restrain them 2:29, 3:13.
- D.** Ananias and Sapphira thought they could worship God through hypocrisy Act.5:1-11.
1. Ananias desired to appear more generous and spiritual than he was 5:1-2.
 2. Ananias allowed Satan to fill his heart and lied to the Holy Spirit, God. 5:3-4.
 3. Ananias and Sapphira his wife were struck dead by God 5:5, 10.

Disobedience robs God of His glory!

ILLUSTRATION

Joshua told Achan, "My sin, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him; and tell me now what you have done, do not hide it from me!" Josh.7:19.

III. Their sin practiced today.

- A.** The extreme Pentecostalism that thrives on moving people emotionally but attributing everything to the Holy Spirit and the gifts, when in fact it is the works of the flesh profane fire, contrary to Scripture.
- B.** The positive confession movement that boasts of their superior faith and material prosperity as evidence of spirituality, declaring themselves to be little gods. This is profane fire!
- C.** The signs and wonders movement whose leader professes to teach people to heal, emphasizing the miraculous for evangelism (power evangelism)

while disregarding the boundaries of Scripture, profane fire!

- D.** The "Christian Psychology" movement which has taken the worldly psychology of Freud and dressed it with spiritual decor, profane fire!
- E.** The homosexual church movement who profess they are Christian without having to repent of their homosexual lifestyle, profane fire!
- F.** The common denominator of the sin of offering profane fire and all the scriptural examples is disobedience to that which God had not commanded in Scripture.
 - Act. 17:11 Berian principle of proving all by the Scriptures.
 - You can not add or take away from them without consequences Deut.4:2, Prov.30:6, Rev.22:18-19.
 - 1 Thess.5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

ILLUSTRATION

CONCLUSION

Insight Not Emotion

If we try to re-introduce the rare moments of inspiration, it is a sign that it is not God we want. We are making fetish of the moments when God did come and speak, and insisting that He must do it again; whereas what God wants us do is to "walk by faith." How many of us have laid ourselves by, as it were, and said-- "I cannot do any more until God appears to me. " He never will, and without any inspiration, without any sudden touch of God, we will have to get up. Then comes the surprise--"Why, He was there all the time, and I never knew it!" Never live for the rare moments, they are surprises. God will give us touches of

inspiration when He sees we are not in danger of being led away by them. We must never make our moments of inspiration our standard; our standard is our duty.

(Chambers; My Utmost for His Highest, P.22)