



Lesson 34 – The Sin of Nadab and Abihu

based on Leviticus 10:1-11.

- 1) After the Tabernacle dedication, what were Aaron and his sons to do?

Leviticus 8:30 And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which was upon the altar, and sprinkled it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and _____ Aaron, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

Leviticus 8:33 And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your _____ be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you.

These services occupied seven days, each marked by special ceremonies. On the eighth day they entered upon their ministration. Assisted by his sons, Aaron offered the sacrifices that God required, and he lifted up his hands and blessed the people. All had been done as God commanded, and He accepted the sacrifice.

- 2) What did God do to show His approval?

Leviticus 9:23-24 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the _____ of the LORD appeared unto all the people. And there came a _____ out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

The people looked upon this wonderful manifestation of divine power with awe and intense interest. They saw in it a token of God's glory and favor, and they raised a universal shout of praise and adoration and fell on their faces as if in the immediate presence of Jehovah.

- 3) What did the newly consecrated priests do?

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered _____ before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

At the hour of worship, as the prayers and praise of the people were ascending to God, two of the sons of Aaron took each his censer and burned fragrant incense thereon, to rise as a sweet odor before the Lord. But they transgressed His command by the use of "**strange fire**." For burning the incense they took common instead of the sacred fire which God Himself had kindled, and which He had commanded to be used for this purpose.

- 4) What happened to them?

Leviticus 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and _____ them, and they died before the LORD.

Next to Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu had stood highest in Israel. They had been especially honored by the Lord, having been permitted with the seventy elders to behold His glory in the mount. But their transgression was not therefore to be excused or lightly regarded. All this rendered their sin more grievous.



They had not been taught to respect the authority of their father, and they did not realize the necessity of exact obedience to the requirements of God. Aaron's mistaken indulgence of his sons prepared them to become the subjects of the divine judgments.

He cannot accept partial obedience. It was not enough that in this solemn season of worship nearly everything was done as He had directed. God has pronounced a curse upon those who depart from His commandments and put no difference between common and holy things.

- 5) How does God feel about those who bring “**strange fire**” into His service?

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil _____, and good evil; that put _____ for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Isaiah 5:21-22 Woe unto them that are wise in their _____ eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to _____ wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Isaiah 5:23-24 Which justify the _____ for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as _____, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Let no one deceive himself with the belief that a part of God's commandments are nonessential, or that He will accept a substitute for that which He has required.

- 6) Is God really serious about that?

Lamentations 3:37 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the _____ commandeth it not?

God has placed in His word no command which men may obey or disobey at will and not suffer the consequences. If men choose any other path than that of strict obedience.

- 7) What comes from disobedience?

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____.

- 8) At the death of Nadab and Abihu, what did Moses direct?

Leviticus 10:6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, _____ not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, _____ the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

- 9) Why?

Leviticus 10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be _____ in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

The death of his sons, cut down without warning, in so terrible a sin, a sin which he now saw to be the result of his own neglect of duty, wrung the father's heart with anguish, but he gave his feelings no expression. By no manifestation of grief must he seem to sympathize with sin. The congregation must not be led to murmur against God.

The divine rebuke is upon that false sympathy for the sinner which endeavors to excuse his sin. It is the effect of sin to deaden the moral perceptions, so that the wrongdoer does not realize the enormity of transgression, and without the convicting power of the Holy Spirit he remains in partial blindness to his sin. It is the duty of Christ's servants to show these erring ones their peril.



Those who destroy the effect of the warning by blinding the eyes of sinners to the real character and results of sin often flatter themselves that they thus give evidence of their charity; but they are working directly to oppose and hinder the work of God's Holy Spirit; they are lulling the sinner to rest on the brink of destruction; they are making themselves partakers in his guilt and incurring a fearful responsibility for his impenitence.

10) What reminders did Moses give to Aaron, Eleazer and Ithamar?

Leviticus 10:9 Do not drink _____ nor _____ drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Nadab and Abihu would never have committed that fatal sin had they not first become partially intoxicated by the free use of wine. They understood that the most careful and solemn preparation was necessary before presenting themselves in the sanctuary, where the divine Presence was manifested; but by intemperance they were disqualified for their holy office. Their minds became confused and their moral perceptions dulled so that they could not discern the difference between the sacred and the common.

11) Why is this important?

Leviticus 10:10-11 And that ye may put difference between holy and _____, and between _____ and clean; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

The use of spirituous liquors has the effect to weaken the body, confuse the mind, and debase the morals. It prevents men from realizing the sacredness of holy things or the binding force of God's requirements. All who occupied positions of sacred responsibility were to be men of strict temperance, that their minds might be clear to discriminate between right and wrong, that they might possess firmness of principle, and wisdom to administer justice and to show mercy.

12) Are we priests?

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal _____, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous _____:

We are required by God to preserve every power in the best possible condition, that we may render acceptable service to our Creator.

13) What did Paul tell us?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are _____.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye _____, or _____, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

14) Is that really seriously a thing I should worry about?

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God _____; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Can you see that God wants us to be healthy?

Would you like the strength to overcome your defilement?

When is it time to pray?