

Message #18

Leviticus 10:12-20

When I read a passage such as James 3:1—which says, “Let not many of you become teachers... knowing we shall incur a stricter judgment”—we had better make certain we know the Word of God and we are accurately communicating the Word of God. When I read a passage such as Hebrews 13:17, it becomes very clear to me that God will hold leaders highly accountable for how they conducted themselves as leaders and for how they governed God’s church.

Leviticus is a book that is designed to take God’s people to a very special level of holiness and fellowship. To get to that level, leadership is needed who will guide God’s people in a way that is truly reverential.

When you have God truly working in a place, He does not just sit idly by and tolerate godless leadership. He holds leaders accountable and sometimes He holds them accountable before they get into eternity.

Now in the first half of the chapter God executes two of Aaron’s sons—Nadab and Abihu—because **they did something God did not tell them to do**. In this next section two more of Aaron’s sons find themselves in serious trouble because **they did not do something God did tell them to do**. The lesson is simple:

A LEADER OF GOD HAD BETTER MAKE CERTAIN HE GOVERNS ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE IF HE DOES THINGS GOD’S WORD HAS NOT TOLD HIM TO DO OR DOESN’T DO THINGS GOD’S WORD HAS TOLD HIM TO DO, HE WILL BE JUDGED AND HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

God does not want sloppy worship. He wants things done His way.

FACT #1 – In the aftermath of the execution of two sons of Aaron, Moses gives offering instructions to Aaron and his surviving sons. **10:12**

This showed that God would still have fellowship with them and God would still direct them even though two of their leaders had been executed by God.

When something negative happens to your family, you can begin to think God has turned against all. Nothing could be further from the truth. If any person purposes to obey God, God will use them and bless them regardless of what other family members have done. Two boys are dead and two are alive by direct judgment of God. These priests were raised in the same home by the same parents and given the same instruction. Two took the instruction lightly and turned out bad and two took the instruction seriously and turned out good. You cannot blame the parents for the way the children turned out.

FACT #2 – Moses gave Aaron and his sons instruction concerning the handling of the left-over grain offering and peace offerings. **10:12-15**

I find this very gracious. God wanted these priests and their families to realize that He was still caring for them even though He had to remove a couple of “bad apples.”

God will always fellowship with faithful people even if they are surrounded by those who are unfaithful.

FACT #3 – Moses is angered by the fact that the sin offering had not been eaten by the priests. **10:16-18**

Now put this in context—God has just executed two of Aaron’s sons for doing something God had not told them to do and now Moses is angered by the fact that the other two sons have not done something God did tell them to do.

Now according to Leviticus 6:26, 29, the sin offering which was brought by an offerer was to be eaten by the priests and in Leviticus 10:17 we get a wonderful glimpse as to why it was to be eaten by the priests.

(Reason #1) - The sin offering was to be eaten by the priests because it was a most holy offering. **10:17a**

(Reason #2) - The sin offering was to be eaten by the priests because it was a guilt removing gesture. **10:17b**

Apparently when the people saw the sin offering disappear into the priests mouth, it symbolized the fact that their sin disappeared in the mind of God by virtue of the sacrifice.

Reason #3) - The sin offering was to be eaten by the priests because it was an atoning act. **10:17c**

The eating of the offering is illustrative of the fact that what is left—the blood—is that which covers the sin. In fact, when one reads **verse 18** it becomes obvious that it is the blood that atones for sin.

FACT #4 – Aaron gives a defense of why they did not eat the offering. **10:19**

Actually, the lack of complete obedience was due to the fact they revered God.

FACT #5 – Aaron’s answer seemed good to Moses. **10:20**

God is a very personal God—He sees all disobedience and all obedience and both will be rewarded.