



— Nadab & Abihu – Taking God Seriously —

Exodus 30, Leviticus 10, 16

Small Group Plan

It may seem strange to us that God killed Nadab and Abihu instead of merely warning them. But God was often forced to act firmly at the beginning of a new era. Here, the priestly ministry at the Tabernacle was about to begin. Later when Israel entered the Promised Land, God used Achan's disobedience as a warning. The death of Uzzah was God's warning when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. And at the beginning of the early church, the death of Ananias and Sapphira served as a warning to the early Christians. The message is clear. It is always a serious matter to take God seriously.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What did you grow up thinking the fear of God meant?
- Has your view of godly fear deepened and become more mature over time? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— INDEPENDENT —

WRONG PEOPLE

Exodus 30:7-10

⁷ "Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. ⁸ He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come. ⁹ Do not offer on this altar any other incense or any burnt offering or grain offering, and do not pour a drink offering on it. ¹⁰ Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the LORD."

- Who did God choose to handle the incense?
- Why does "when" "where" "who" and "what" matter to God?

WRONG INSTRUMENT

Exodus 40:9

"Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy."

- Who did God choose to handle the incense?
- Why does "when" "where" "who" and "what" matter to God?

WRONG TIME

Leviticus 16:1-2

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the LORD. ² The LORD said to Moses: “Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

- Notice: “not... whenever he chooses.”
- Why did God give us His quality of creativity, and how is it a blessing?
- What is the difference between being creative and being independent?

— IMPULSIVE —

WRONG FIRE

Leviticus 10:1

Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command.

- What would cause Nadab and Abihu to essentially say, “Our fire is as good as yours God. We don’t need yours”?
- Describe the heart and mind that lies behind such action.

WRONG MOTIVE

Leviticus 10:3

Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.”” Aaron remained silent.

- Why did Aaron remain silent?
- Why is it likely that his sons acted out of pride to seek their own honor?

WRONG ENERGY

Leviticus 10:9-10

⁹ “You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, ¹⁰ so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.

- Why do many scholars believe Nadab & Abihu were under the influence?
- Why is a clear mind important in faith and worship?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What did Aaron learn about obeying God?
- Was God too harsh? Explain.
- In what sense is this a story, not about us, but about God?
- Close by asking God for a clear picture of His will.