
Ignite

“ Dear Lord, thank You for Your constant grace, unfailing love and ever renewing mercies in our lives through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us for taking our walk with You and the journey of faith lightly. Help us Lord to revere You and honour Your name in everything that we do. Speak to us today and may our hearts respond to You in obedience and submission. Amen.”



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: *The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.*

Leviticus 1 – Pursuing Holiness:

Priesthood - Leadership of God’s people (Lev 8-10)

Pastor Mike Ngui

Leviticus 9:22-10:3

Then Aaron lifted his hands towards the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering and the fellowship offering, he stepped down. Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell face down.

Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorised fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. 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 honoured.”*

Aaron remained silent.

BIG IDEA: You don’t mess with God. Take Him seriously.

1. Leaders are carefully set apart to lead God's people. *Leviticus 8:1-36*

The Aaronic priesthood was God's idea. The priesthood was set apart and fashioned according to God's command. Just like the priests, we are to be fashioned not according to the pattern of this world, but according to God's pattern. Priests were God-appointed; they were not self-appointed. They were the only ones who can prepare the sacrifices and bring them to God.

Priests play important roles as mediators of God's atonement to God's people, that was until Jesus came, who stood as the perfect Mediator between us and God. (Hebrews 10:14, 1 Timothy 2:5) They were expected to teach the laws to the people, in order for the people to know how to live honourably and rightly before God. Aaron and his sons did all the things as commanded by God through Moses. They have to be purified by Yahweh before they could be used by God. They have to be constantly purified by offering sacrifices again and again to God. Only Jesus can offer the ultimate sacrifice for our sins once and for all, with no other sacrifices needed. (Hebrews 10:11,12)

The roles of priests are to be attended to with great care. Their responsibilities should not be taken lightly.

Roles of priests:

i. Mediators of God's atonement to God's people.

ii. Worship leaders for God's people.

iii. Judges in issues of holiness for God's people.

iv. Teachers of God's Word for God's people.

We cannot lead others to worship God if we ourselves do not worship Him. We cannot lead others to honour God if we ourselves do not honour Him. We cannot teach God's Word to others if we do not know God's Word for ourselves. We as leaders need to take the call of leadership seriously. We are exalted to live holy, set

apart, and consecrated lives. “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

2. Careful Worship leads to experiencing God's grace. *Leviticus 9:1-24*

God promises His presence in response to right worship. The fire of God consumes the sacrifice offered to God on the altar, which is symbolic of the atonement of our sins. This is also symbolic of the fellowship between God and us. The offering that is offered is also a fellowship offering, and in this case, God consumes His portion of the offering, like a meal that is being shared. It is not a one-way relationship whereby we just do all the work of preparing the sacrifices and offering them to God. God is restoring fellowship and blesses us in return.

3. Careless Worship leads to experiencing God's wrath. *Leviticus 10:1-20*

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu did not obey God's command in worship. They offered unauthorised fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. (Leviticus 10:1) Because of this, they were struck dead. No one can worship God any way that they choose. We do not get to worship God on our own terms. We do not get to live life however we want and then plead for forgiveness at the pearly gates (heaven). A true child of God who understands and who has experienced God's salvation will strive for holiness. They live to please God and will not live life carelessly. (Hebrews 12:14)

Conclusion

If you are a follower of Christ, you are a leader. You are a leader to your spouse, your children, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbours etc. To lead people according to God's way, we need to know God's Word. Commit to lead people rightly, to show them how to worship and honour the Lord. Be careful to consecrate your hearts. Those who teach will be judged more severely. Therefore, we cannot depend on ourselves, we need to depend on Christ to enable us. He is the one we depend on for holiness, He is the one we look to.



SERMON REFLECTION



Two of the sermon's main points were regarding the manner and importance of proper and careful worship, first of which is that careful worship leads to experiencing God's grace, and second of which is that careless worship leads to experiencing God's wrath. Given the severe consequences for the different manners of worship, I was led to ponder and reflect on how God calls us to worship Him.

First of all, worship is not limited to song. It is not just about singing songs to God in church. It is a total response of life to the object of our worship. When we truly worship something, it affects the way we live.

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship

him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

Jesus said in John 4:23-24 that the Father is seeking for people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. This is to be done simultaneously, not separately. Our spirit is the core of who we are. It is the non-physical part of a person which is the seat of emotions and character. It is the innermost being that is the very essence of who we are. We know that God is a spiritual being. To worship in spirit is to do something that is beyond the physical. We do not worship by simply raising our hands or bowing our knees; we worship through a posture of the heart. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at our hearts.

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Worshipping in truth means that we worship based on the truth. ***"For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge." (Romans 10:2).*** This truth is about who God is and what He does. It is the truth about everything that is true about God, hence why He is worthy of worship. When we worship God with the knowledge of who He is, we can worship Him in truth. We can know God through the Bible where He has revealed Himself to us, and through a personal relationship with Him.

To worship God in truth also includes the truth about our circumstances. We worship God even when we are experiencing sorrow and heartache. When we worship Him in the truth of our circumstances, we do not forget about our hurt or pretend that it is not there, but we worship even in the truth of our hurt and pain. To worship in truth is to be real and authentic in our worship. We also worship in joyful circumstances. We can declare God's truth in the midst of our circumstances.

Therefore, to worship God in spirit and in truth, is to declare that God is worthy of our reverence and honour. We do this both through our inner emotional core and in light of reality. We worship God based on the truth of who He is and of who we are. We worship God based on the truth of what He does, and the truth of what is going on in our world. We worship God with a heart that is inclined towards Him and in a

posture of submission and surrender. We do so with our attitudes, actions and words declaring His worthiness. Our worship centres in God, and in our relationship with Him.

Contributed by Anthea Tan



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Questions

- State one MCO SOP that you find ridiculous, or what is the one MCO SOP that you hope can be relaxed soon? [no need to explain why]

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- What was it from the passage of Leviticus 9:22-10:3 that stood out to you? What did you learn from this passage?
- How has Leviticus 9 given you a fresh perspective about sacrifice (when compared to the previous week's sermon on Leviticus 1)?
- How seriously do you take God in all aspects of your life? (Aspects of life include: church life, work life, social life, family life, marriage etc.) How can you take God more seriously in these aspects?

Suggested Questions linked to:

- 1. Leaders are carefully set apart to lead God's people.**

- If we are Christ's followers, we are all leaders. (To our spouse, our children, our friends, our co-workers, our neighbours etc). Think of those to whom you are a leader to. How might you be leading them to honour and worship God?
- As a leader, we need to get equipped too. What can you do to equip yourself this year in 2021?
- God said "Be holy, because I am holy". Discuss how it is possible to pursue holiness with a heart of gladness. How can we obey God in delight rather than in dread?

2. Careful Worship leads to experiencing God's grace.

- Worshipping God can take many forms, such as spending time with God, making the conscious effort to choose to obey Him, using your resources such as your time and money to serve Him, and so on. What do you think is acceptable worship and what isn't to God?

3. Careless Worship leads to experiencing God's wrath.

- The struggle and challenge of living life on God's terms is real. Do you see yourself as a leader or a follower in living life on God's terms or your own? Share your views on this.

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

1. There have been times when we did not feel like worshipping God during church celebration, participating in Holy Communion, standing up to read the Word of God out loud and so on. How can we overcome these moments of feeling distant?

2. We sometimes judge the leaders God has placed over us, focusing on the human flaw rather than on how God is using them to speak to us and teach us. How can we honour the leaders God has placed over us? How can we be an encouragement to them?

3. As a leader, your life becomes an example for others to follow. You may then be seen to have higher expectations from those who are under your care. In what ways can you bridge the gap and remain approachable to them?



PRAYER



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Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

[Pray out loud together as a CG.]

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us such an amazing understanding of Who You are, and what You desire from Your children.

Thank You that Jesus was both the Sin Offering, Who paid the price for my sins, but also a Burnt Offering, by willingly giving His life to fulfil Your plans and purposes, for the redemption of the world.

I pray that I may willingly present my body, in continual devotion and dedication to You, by giving up myself to Your service - this I ask in Jesus name. AMEN.



OTHER RESOURCES

*Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



Our Bodies are Icons of God's Grace

seedbed.com

God fashioned our bodies to be the perfect means for rec...

Timothy Tennent

Christian Living

Article



The Sacredness of Ordinary Trasks

seedbed.com

All work is sacred when it is seen through our status as im...

Timothy Tennent

Vocation Christian Living

Article



Walking with God Through Grief

voice.dts.edu

Mom lingered in a coma for a few days. The stroke had c...

Michael Ward

Counselling Suffering

Article



Theology of Stewardship

45 minutes (Transcript provided)

voice.dts.edu

In this episode, Dr. Darrell Bock and Scott Talbot discuss ...

Darrell Bock Scott Talbot

Vocation Work

Podcast

OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

