

Lessons from Leviticus

Part 6

Leviticus 19:2

I. Introduction

- A. We are coming to the close of our series on the book of Leviticus.
- B. Tonight I want to briefly look at the sundry laws that are given throughout the second half of the book.
- C. Then I want to look at Nadab and Abihu as an illustration concerning the keeping of those laws.

II. Use this Fire, Don't Eat That

- A. There are many laws throughout the book of Leviticus that may or may not make any sense to us.
- B. Chapter 11 tells us about clean and unclean animals:
 - 1. You can eat:
 - a) Split hoof, chews the cud (cows, goats, sheep).
 - b) Fins and scales (trout, salmon).
 - c) Most birds (pigeons, quail).
 - 2. Do not eat:
 - a) Pigs, camels, rabbits.
 - b) Catfish, shellfish.
 - c) Birds of prey (eagles, vultures).
- C. Chapter 12-15 tells us what makes an individual clean or unclean.
- D. Chapter 16 deals with how the high priest should approach God.
- E. Chapter 17 deals with laws concerning the blood of animals.
- F. Chapter 18 deals with sexual misconduct.
- G. In chapter 10 we have an illustration of breaking one of these laws.
 - 1. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire.
 - 2. God sent out fire to consume them as a result.

III. Lessons from Nadab and Abihu

- A. God makes the rules:
 - 1. What was strange about this fire?
 - a) Perhaps it wasn't from the fire that God sent down (9:24).
 - b) Perhaps they were drunk (10:8-9).
 - c) Perhaps they tried to enter into the most holy place (16:1-2).
 - d) Perhaps all three.
 - 2. Why not any kind of meat?
 - a) Maybe a test.
 - b) Maybe religious.
 - c) Maybe hygienic.
 - d) Maybe symbolic.
 - 3. Why not eat blood?
 - a) Respect for life (17:14).
 - b) Keep away from idolotry (17:7).

4. Whether He tells us the reason or not the main reason is because He is God.
 - a) He makes this clear in Chapters 18-19.
 - b) Just look at chapter 19:3-4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24-25, 28, 30-32, 34, 36-37.
 - c) Humanism seeks to supplant His authority to say "I AM GOD".
- B. They serve as an example.
 1. They should have known better.
 - a) Nadab and Abihu were the sons of the High Priest.
 - b) If they are not giving God's laws the utmost respect, what does that mean for everyone else.
 - c) We must be careful what we recommend.
 2. They show how serious we should consider following God's laws.
 - a) Maybe something sounds "reasonable" to us.
 - b) Can we find authority?
 - c) God has the right to change the rules even (instrumental music and Moses and the Rock).
- C. We must be careful not to commiserate with sin.
 1. Aaron was not allowed to mourn the death of his sons (10:3-7).
 - a) The people needed to understand that the punishment was just and that Aaron saw it as such.
 - b) Mourning might have indicated that Aaron was sympathetic toward his sons' actions.
 2. Some people scorn parents who cut their children off when they turn to a life of sin.
 3. Some people go well beyond encouraging a restored brother or sister and onto celebrating the circumstances of their sin.
 - a) Baby showers for unwed mothers.
 - b) Reveling in the sins of the past.

IV. Conclusion

- A. It is lessons like this that let me know that I need to be closer to my God.
- B. I need to appreciate more how great He is and how small I am.
- C. Because if I don't I might try to reason my way out of doing something that God tells me to do.
- D. It also makes me thankful to be under the law of Christ.
 1. It is still a demanding law that requires a great deal from its adherents but...
 2. It is comforting to know that while sin may have its consequences here that cannot be avoided, Christ has made sin conquerable for the life to come.
- E. What about you?
 1. Do you believe God?
 2. Do you believe His promises of destruction or peace?
 3. If you ignore the invitation then I doubt that you do.