

Not Him, The Other Guy

Eleazar and Ithamar

(Leviticus 10:1-20)

- Introduction:
1. Who were the two sons of Aaron, who were priests, and we read about them making a mistake in Leviticus 10?
 2. In answer to this question, nearly everyone would surely say, “Nadab and Abihu,” but I’m not talking about them, but the other guys, “Eleazar and Ithamar.”
 3. We don’t give these two men much attention, but I think we make a mistake when we don’t.
 4. Ills. Of blind men who went to the zoo.
 5. All four of these sons tell us something about God, and when we only look at Nadab and Abihu, we may come away with a distorted picture of God.

I. Nadab & Abihu

- A. (Leviticus 10:1-11).
- B. “Strange” Fire – (zarah Heb. – Phonetic – zoor) – To turn aside, unauthorized.
 1. (Exodus 30:9; Leviticus 16:12).
 2. The fire was to come from the altar of burnt offerings.
- C. “Which he had not commanded them” (Leviticus 10:1).
 1. The silence of the Scriptures.
 2. Is it permissive or prohibitive?
 - a. (Leviticus 10:1).
 - b. (Jeremiah 32:35).
 - c. (Hebrews 7:14).
 - d. (Hebrews 1:5).
- D. Our censors are often flaming with strange fire!
 1. Just think of the things that are offered up to God that are unauthorized today!
 2. Such presumptuous actions demonstrate a lack of respect for God’s holiness (Leviticus 10:3; Ps. 36:1; Romans 3:18; Jeremiah 2:19).
- E. Additional error suggested (Leviticus 10:9).

II. Eleazar & Ithamar

- A. (Leviticus 10:12-20).
- B. The two other sons of Aaron that we usually overlook.
- C. They too, made a mistake in their obedience to God (Leviticus 10:16-20), yet with very different outcomes.
- D. Why the difference?
 1. Not all sin is the same.

- a. (John 19:11)
 - b. (Matthew 12:31-32).
 - c. (1 John 5:16-17).
 - d. Failing to realize this difference robs a lot of people of peace and security
 - 1) Consider Paul's security (2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8).
 - 2) (1 John 5:16).
 - 3) Best we can sometimes muster is "I hope I'm saved."
(1 Kings 15:5).
 - e. (1 Kings 15:5).
 - f. There is an on-going forgiveness to one who sins while "walking in the light" (1 John 1:7).
 - g. God is merciful to the humble (Micah 7:18).
 - h. Ills. Of two little boys getting water for dad.
2. God makes distinction between sins committed by those walking in darkness and those who are walking in the light.

- Conclusion:
1. Let's not forget the lessons learned from all four of Aaron's sons.
 2. They give balance and a better perception of the God we serve.