



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Exodus and Leviticus Sermon Series
Supports Session 11: Separation
Sermon Title: “Strange Fire” (Leviticus 10:1-5)

Connection to Session 11

God called Aaron and his sons to serve Him as priests. In Leviticus 9, Aaron and his sons were set aside for service and an offering was presented on their behalf to the Lord. The Lord accepted the sacrifice by sending fire to consume the offering. However, two of Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu sought to go before the Lord in an unholy manner, and they were judged for their sin against God.

Introduction/Opening

The people of Israel had just seen God’s fire consume the sacrifices made on their behalf. There was likely much joy in the camp as a result of God’s approval of the sacrifice. That joy would only last for a moment because God’s fire of judgment would come upon Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu. This act of God would remind the people that God is holy, and those who serve Him should take seriously their own responsibilities and holiness.

Outline

I. Strange Fire (Lev. 10:1)

God had just accepted Aaron’s sacrifice in Leviticus 9; however, that joy would soon be replaced by terror as Aaron’s sons were judged for their unholy acts before the presence of the Lord.

- a. Direct disobedience
 - i. On the surface, Nadab and Abihu’s actions might not seem that bad, but their actions were a direct violation to God’s command.
 - ii. Nadab and Abihu brought “unauthorized” fire before the Lord (v. 1).
 - i. Some translations say “strange” fire.
 - ii. They were attempting to worship God in their own way, not in the way God had explained. Nadab and Abihu attempted to bring their own fire instead of the fire coming from the coals of the altar in the tabernacle.
- b. God’s holiness and instruction are not to be dismissed
 - i. Nadab and Abihu’s actions show they were taking God’s holiness for granted.
 - ii. Their actions also show they were not following God’s commands.

1. Application: We must have a holy reverence for God's Word and seek to follow Him faithfully.

II. Severe judgment (Lev. 10:2-5)

Even though Nadab and Abihu had been set apart to serve the Lord, that did not mean they were above God's Word. The priests were to lead the people in worship of the Lord, but they must do so in the way God had revealed.

- a. Sin must be punished.
 - i. God's Word cannot be dismissed. Nadab and Abihu attempted to enter God's presence on their own terms.
 - ii. God had given them instructions for entering His presence, but they did not follow His commands.
 1. Application: We do not enter God's presence on our own terms. We enter God's presence through the work of Christ.
- b. Leaders are not above the Word of God.
 - i. Faithful leaders should set a godly example.
 1. Application: Just because someone holds a position of authority, it does not mean they do not have to be obedient. Those who are called to leadership should be held to a higher standard.

Conclusion

Right after Nadab and Abihu were commissioned into the priesthood, they broke the law of God by offering unauthorized fire. They sinned against God, and they were punished. Nadab and Abihu's positions as priests did not mean they were above the law. They needed to set a faithful example for proper worship of God. The failure of Nadab and Abihu as priests points us to our perfect High Priest Jesus Christ.

Greg Kilgore is the Associational Missions Strategist for the Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association in Fresno, CA. He and his wife, Megan, have three children. Greg is a PhD student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also teaches as an adjunct professor.

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