

Message #15**Leviticus 8:1-36**

As we come to Leviticus 8, we come to a new section which features the inauguration and consecration of the priests and their sacrifices. To this point in the book of Leviticus, the emphasis has been on the various sacrifices. Now the scheme changes and the emphasis is on the priests and not the sacrifices.

It becomes very clear that in order for one to approach God in true worship, one not only needed an offering, but he also needed priestly leadership to lead him into true worship. Since every believer is a priest unto God, every believer needs to lead himself into ways which are pure and clean.

IN ORDER FOR PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD AND ENTER INTO A DEEP LEVEL OF HOLINESS, LEADERS ARE NEEDED WHO ARE DEDICATED TO GOD AND WHO ARE PURE AND CLEAN.

Now this is true both corporately and individually. For any group to be holy, it needs dedicated and consecrated leadership. For any individual to be holy, he needs to be dedicated and consecrated to the Lord.

PART #1 – The calling of the priests. 8:1-5

Moses was commanded by God to consecrate the priests publically in front of the congregation. Moses was to gather the congregation together so they could witness this event. Now think for a moment what the congregation was witnessing—feeble, sinful, finite men just like themselves being set aside for serving God. These were not perfect men; in fact that is why they needed the sin offering. There is no such thing as a perfect leader. Leaders are sinners who have been chosen by God. Their job is to lead others in the things of God, for that is the calling that God has placed on them.

PART #2 – The cleansing of the priests. 8:6

If one is to serve the Lord, he must be clean both positionally and practically. It is the blood that makes one positionally clean but that is not enough for service. One must also be practically clean, practically washed.

How does one get washed today?

1. One is washed today by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 – constant cleansing of the Spirit of God
2. One is washed today by developing a pure conscience. Heb. 10:22
3. One is washed today by the Word of God. Eph. 5:26
4. One is washed today by confession. I John 1:9

PART #3 – The clothing of the priests. 8:7-9, 13

The High Priest, who was Aaron, was to wear specific clothing which included: 1) Tunic; 2) Sash; 3) Robe; 4) Ephod; 5) Artistic band; 6) Breastplate; 7) Urim & Thummin; 8) Turban; 9) Golden plate in the turban; 10) Holy crown. The priests were to also have special clothing: 1) Tunic; 2) Sash; 3) Special hats. It is very clear that there were differences in rank and responsibilities of the priests, but all priests were to have a change of clothing. No one is able to minister for Jesus Christ unless they are first clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

PART #4 – The consecration of the property and the priests. 8:10-12

The tabernacle was to be a place that also was clean. Both the place of worship and the people conducting the worship needed to be anointed with oil. This is rich symbolism for in order for a church to be a real place of worship it needs to be a place fully controlled by the Holy Spirit. There can be no hidden or dirty places in a church that really offers pure worship.

PART #5 – The complete cleansing and consecration of the priests. 8:14-32**(Offering #1) - The sin offering for the priests. 8:14-17**

These were priests but they were still sinners. The priestlier the leader is, the more he will recognize his own sinfulness and his own need for cleansing. Moses killed the bull and took the blood and consecrated the property (8:15). Notice there was no merit in the altar, but in the blood.

(Offering #2) - The burnt offering for the priests. 8:18-21

Notice the chronology of priestly offerings—first the sin offering which dealt with the sin of the priest and then the burnt offering which dedicated self to God.

(Offering #3) - The ordination offering for the priests. 8:22-30

To be a leader, more appropriation and application of the sacrifices are required. A true leader should have a profound sense of the value of God's sacrificial system.

PART #6 – The commandments to the priests. 8:31-36**PARTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. Leaders are needed for development in holiness and worship.**
- 2. Leaders need to be recognized by the congregation as leaders.**
- 3. Leaders are sinners and need to continually make certain they are clean—through confession, conscience, Scripture, and yielding to the Holy Spirit.**
- 4. There is no holiness or worship apart from a serious focus on the blood of Jesus Christ.**