

Message #39

Leviticus 22:1-16

There is nothing that will kill our spiritual life quicker than thinking lightly of and treating lightly the sacred things of God. When God's people lose sight of what is sacred, when they begin to treat disrespectfully things that are very important to God, they set themselves up for serious judgment.

GOD'S PEOPLE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THEY DO NOT DO THINGS THAT PROFANE GOD'S NAME; SPECIFICALLY, BY TREATING GOD'S HOLY THINGS DISRESPECTFULLY OR THEY WILL RECEIVE A JUDGMENT FROM GOD.

Treating sacred things lightly is something God notices. It is something God judges. It is no light matter in God's sight to do things that minimize or secularize His sacred things.

CATEGORY #1 – The priest is not to treat God's holy things lightly. **22:1-9**

Aaron and his sons needed to be very careful in the way they treated and handled sacred things which had been dedicated to God (**22:2**). If they weren't careful, the results were these: 1) They profaned God's name (**22:2**); 2) They would be cut off from God's service (**22:3**); 3) They could die (**22:9**). **Now the particular area in this context that priests were warned against was being involved in any sacred service or activity in an unclean state (22:3).** God wanted His priests holy and for them to participate in something sacred in an unholy or unclean condition was a very serious matter in God's mind.

Unclean State #1 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he is a leper. **22:4a**

Unclean State #2 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he has a discharge. **22:4b**

Unclean State #3 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he touches a corpse. **22:4c**

Unclean State #4 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he has a seminal emission. **22:4d**

Unclean State #5 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he touches teeming things. **22:5**

Unclean State #6 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things until he bathes himself in water. **22:6-7**

Unclean State #7 - No leader is to involve himself in sacred things if he eats an animal that died or which was torn to shreds. **22:8**

God wanted one who served Him clean—in every area of life—from what is coming out from the inside to what he is touching on the outside—from the internal to the external, God wanted His priest clean.

CATEGORY #2 – The layman is not to treat God’s holy things lightly. **22:10-16**

Regulation #1 - No layman is to eat a holy offering. **22:10**

Regulation #2 - Only those intimately connected to the priest may eat of the holy offering.
22:11

Regulation #3 - A priest’s daughter who marries a layman may not partake of the holy things of God. **22:12**

Regulation #4 - A priest’s daughter who is widowed or divorced and childless may return to her father’s house and partake. **22:13**

Regulation #5 - If a layman ate a holy gift unintentionally there was a way he could be forgiven. **22:14**

Things that are holy are just that—they are holy. God takes sacred things seriously and so should His people.