

Sermon: Community Based Education

Sermon Text: Leviticus 10:8-11

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-12

Focus: "Teach the children of Israel all the statutes" with education comes responsibility.

Introduction

➔ Sermonic Text

In our text this morning, we are confronted with a different perspective of God than the loving forgiving nature and our desire to lean upon his grace and mercy. We see God in this text without patience on those who disobey his command.

We need to remember that the fear of God or respect is the emphasis found in the Leviticus particularly in Chapter 19. ➔ The Leviticus code essentially provides for us rules for communal

living and rules for the proper worship of God.

➔ Leviticus constantly reminds us that God requires of us Holiness and righteousness. It points us to us that there are serious consequences for our disobedience.

Leviticus makes us uniquely aware that God has little tolerance for disobedience to his commands.

➔ God had given Aaron and his sons the responsibility of being the priests for the people of Israel. A priest goes to God on behalf of the people. That is different than a prophet who speaks for God to the people. While we know

that the veil has been broken and we can go to God unmediated. It's good to know that there is someone who God has anointed and ordained to present the petitions of his people to Him. It's good to know that there is someone who God has placed the awesome responsibility to live life in such a way that when they come before God. God understands that their request is not for themselves it's for someone else.

Sometimes in life, you need an advocate.

Sometimes in life you need help getting your prayer through. Sometimes in life you need someone to wipe your brow, sit with you, and affirm in your spirit that everything is going to

be alright. Sometimes, you need a priest who God has placed in your life to plead your case.

But that priest, that prayer warrior, that man or woman of God has an awesome responsibility.

They must first be obedient to God's word.

They must have their house in order. They must understand first that it me, it me, it me, Oh Lord standing in the need of prayer.

But, the priest should be the first to admit that they are earthen vessels; that they have warts, weaknesses, and waywardness. Every priest, pastor, assistant pastor, deacon, deaconess, elder, usher, member, saint and sinner comes to

God with feet of clay. They come to God with a blood stained robe. They come to God in need of forgiveness.

➔ God can work with you if you possess a repentant spirit. God can work with you if you understand that the very best you do is but filthy rags. God can work with you if you are willing to say, "Come into my heart to stay!" Unfortunately, you find ➔ Aaron sons attempting to take a short cut in the sacrifice that is due God. They attempt to not give God their best, they give God their mess.

In Chapter 9 God had instructed Aaron and his sons on the proper sacrifice and worship that was pleasing in his sight. He allowed them to

come into the tent of presence where his spirit resided. Everyone in that day was not allowed that privilege.

After received the favor of God, Aarons sons took God's favor for granted and presented God with a sacrifice that displeased Him.

Some of us, also take God's favor for granted.

- He has allowed us to experience untold joy, unspeakable joy, and we take God for granted.
- God has permitted us to go to places, achieve some measure of success, acquire some symbols of status; and we take God's favor for granted.

- God woke us up this morning and take us on the highways and byways safely but we take his favor for granted.
- We are where we are today but yet we forget who has brought us here. We take is favor for granted.

Some of us know without a shadow of a doubt, if it had not been for the Lord of on our side where would we be. Some of us know that he picked you up, turned you around, and planted your feet on solid ground. Some of us know that it was God who made a way out of no way. And, still we take his favor for granted.

God did not tolerate this behavior from Aaron's boys. And when they presented a sacrifice that

was not pleasing to God, they were consumed in the process.

Moses steps into the scene and informs Aaron that God wants,  "All who serve God must respect His holiness: God will reveal his glory to his people."

God is always saying to us, not to take his holiness for granted. We live life in such a contradictory way, that we seek to minimize the idea of holiness.

-  • Holiness is that which is sacred.
-  • Holiness is that which is divine.
-  • Holiness is that which is spiritually whole.
-  • Holiness is that which is pure.

God is always saying to us; do not take my holiness for granted.

The Presumption of Nadab and Abihu took God's holiness for granted. The Bible says in

➔ Leviticus 10:1-2 "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."

"Strange" foreign, adulterous, unauthorized.

➔ In an act of disrespect for the Word of God, taking lightly the work of God they attempted

to irreverently worship God in defiance of the holiness of God.

God prescribed the who, what, when, where, and how. These two said that it was no big deal they were going to do church their way. → God stopped them dead in their tracks. They knew what God said, what the Lord wanted and required, and they went ahead doing it the way they wanted to do it. How many are we guilty of this very fact. → Education is a powerful thing; because once you are educated about the do's and the don'ts then you will be held responsible.

→ Punch: I stop by here for somebody to recognize that God will hold you responsible.

- He says, Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest.
- He says, Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- He says, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.
- He says; Do not spread slanderous gossip among your people. "Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is threatened. I am the LORD.
- He says, when we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way!

 Note: It is a dangerous thing when we know what the Scriptures say, what the Lord wants and requires but to presumptuously go ahead and do our own thing our own way because it's what we want and we are not about to let anybody tell us what to do. God will hold you responsible!

It is often said,  with education comes  responsibility.  I remember when I was in college and I wanted to join the gym so badly; because everyone seems to pick on me and tell me that I was too skinny. One day, I got up and I said to myself that I am going to join the gym finally! I got to the gym signed up with the representative but didn't read the clause in the

contract that states that I will be charged \$30 per month for one year. I was so caught up on trying to look a certain way that I forgot what I had just signed my name to. The hard times came when I was unable to pay the \$30 a month and my other bills at the same time because when you're in college you are always strapped for cash. One month pass, two months pass, three months pass and you know what happens next, for not being able to make your payments. The letters begin to come, and the phone calls back to back to back. Hello, "Mr. Francis this call is in-attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector." Are you able to make a settlement today? It either I pay up or its place on my

credit. I am sure many of us sitting here today have gotten this call at some point in time.

I had to be held responsible to what I signed my name to even if I didn't read it. God is going to hold those responsible regardless of how much you think you know or how lets you think you know; because with education comes a level of responsibility.

Another Old Testament example of with education comes responsibility is seen in the life of King Uzziah. [2 Chronicles 26:16-19, 21](#)

➔ “When he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king and said unto him, It appertains not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense. → go out of the sanctuary, for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honor from the LORD God. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD...And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several

house being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD”.

➔ When we rely on the flesh instead of the Holy Spirit, when we seek to have it our way, when we fail to abstain from conformity to the world, when we go through the motions we offer strange fire unto the Lord and he will hold us responsible. In this sermon today we must realize that God must not be played with.

➔ Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

➔ Nadab and Abihu failed to listen to the Word of God. They knew what was supposed to be done, when it was to be done, and how it was to be done. But they weren't going to do it

God's way. They would do it their own way.

How many times do we have this same problem in the church?

- We like to have it our own way and when we don't get it we create a squabble and friction in the church.
- We tell our brothers and sisters that we are supposed to love like ourselves, to take the backseat because you're not educated enough.
- But when the church of God seems to act like this how can we witness to individuals that are in the world?

Ellen G. White warns us against such attitudes in the book *Counsels on Stewardship* page 205 section 1. → “What impression is made upon the minds of unbelievers? The holy standard of the word of God is lowered into the dust.

Contempt is cast upon God **and** upon the Christian name. The most corrupt principles are strengthened by this un-Scriptural way of raising means. → **And** this is as Satan would have it. Men are repeating the sin of **Nadab and Abihu**. They are using common instead of sacred fire in the service of God. The Lord accepts no such offerings.”

We tell God to have his way but we all want our own way in doing things....that's why the

Bible says in, → Isaiah 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”

→ It is the same problem we had then, and it is the same problem we are having now! People want their own way but lest we forget, with education come responsibility.

→ Leviticus 10:8-10 “And the LORD spoke unto Aaron, saying , Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die : it shall be a statute forever throughout

your generations: And THAT YE MAY PUT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOLY AND UNHOLY, AND BETWEEN UNCLEAN AND CLEAN; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.”

- ➔ The priests were not to drink wine or other also alcoholic beverages before going into the temple. If their senses dulled by alcohol, they might repeat Nadab and Abihu’s sin and bring something ungodly into the worship ceremony.
- ➔ In addition drinking would disqualify them to teach the people of God’s requirement of self-discipline. Drunkenness was associated with

pagan practices and the Jewish priests were supposed to be distinctively different.

➔ Nadab and Abihu in their action failed to observe the difference between the sacred and the profane. They blurred the lines between holy and unholy. That's why the Bible is saying to us today in ➔ Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

PUNCH: With education comes responsibility and this responsibility calls us to be different from the world.

There is only one prescribed way to come to God; that is through  His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus said “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

There is no other way. It's neither your way nor my way - only His way.

 There is only one way to live a life of service that honors and glorifies God. It is only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit as one yields to Christ in obedience to Him.

Jesus said in  John 15:4-5, “ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

This brings us to our focus on community based education.

God says to the priests, you must distinguish between what belongs to God and what does not. You must distinguish between what is clean and what is unclean. Then God says that you must teach the children of Israel all my statutes - all my laws.

➔1. Community based education is first moral education. It's about right and wrong. It's that training that places checks and balances in children's lives.

I remember being in pathfinders as a boy in Jamaica. The boys and the girls usually have separate places to train within our church as we gathered together every Sunday morning. We had lots of fun. But at the core of the training was moral education. A pathfinder must be physically fit, mentally awake, and morally straight. We learned that a pathfinder is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedience, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. Community based

education must first be moral education.

➔ 2. Community based education must be meaningful education.

In other words it should place children in right standing with God. It should be something you can use in life. The church must always be at the forefront of meaningful education. Why because we have gleaned wisdom is life? Why because our longevity has taught us something about good health? We know something. We must share what we know. We know that a pleasing personality, a sweet disposition, respect for your elders will take you along way. We know that you have to save for a rainy day.

We know that God answers prayer. We know that you can't burn the candle at both ends. We know that character is what's meaningful in life. One of the tragedies of our day is to see young people with talent, gifts, abilities, but no character. I want you to know that talent will take you, but character will keep you.

The story is told of a young man who was being interviewed for a senior executive management position. This position had executive dining privileges. Company credit card, company car, travel allowance, performance bonuses. This position places you in line for the presidency of the company. The young man had a successful interview and they

took him to lunch in the company dining room. It was one of the dining rooms where you walk through the line and place on your tray what you want to eat. The man had placed the food on his plate, but when he came to the point of the line where you would place the butter patties on your plate. He slipped a butter patty under his tray to keep from paying for it. The Chairman of the Board saw him. An remarked to the committee that we cannot hire the young man. If he would steal, he would lie, if he would lie, he would cheat. The young man lost the opportunity to be hired for an executive position because he had a flawed character. That why community based education must be

meaningful education. We must teach our children the God's way is the only way.

➔ 3. Community based education is mandated education. It is God's laws. It is God's word.

It is an absolute. It is non-negotiable. Psalm 119:165 emphasizes the importance of God's law. David says, "Great peace have they which love thy law." Jesus after teaching the right attitude – The Beatitudes states clearly, "think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy; but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17. Jesus ministry was to let people know that God's law is the way to eternal life. Community based education is

mandated education. **PUNCH LIFT UP THE BIBLE!**

➔ 4. Community based education must be administered by the people of God.

One of the strengths of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was that many of the Sabbath school teachers were school teachers and administrators. As a result, young people received seamless education. There was no divergence of education. Meaning there was no split in what you learn. The lessons of Sabbath could be used on Monday. The people of God should never give away of right to teach our children, all the children of Israel, all the children of Linden, all the children of the

world. Community based education must be administered by the people of God on behalf of God. Let me close with this story, you know it so well. Jesus was twelve years old and his family took him to church as was the custom. They left and after a while on their journey they realized that Jesus was not with them. They went looking for Jesus and it was three days later that they found him in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. When his parents asked him what was he doing, Jesus responded by saying that I must be about my Father's business. The Point is this, community based education was moral, it was meaningful, it was

mandated and it must be administered by the people of God: Sunday, Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday because it is God's business.

BRING IT HOME NOW

Our job is community based education because it is moral, it's meaningful, it's mandated, it must be administered by the people of God and finally it will get you somewhere.

➔ 5. Finally Community-based education will get you somewhere.

Community-based education will get you somewhere in this life. With degrees and accolades but it will also get you somewhere in the life to come. It's preparing us for what our

eyes of not see or ears have heard. With education comes the knowledge that:

- ➔ • There is a land that is fairer than day and by faith we can see the far.
- We shall deal homes and inhabit them.
- We will be walking on streets of gold.
- The Angels will fold their wing because they cannot understand the joy that our salvation bring.
- There will be a tree for the healing of the nation that shall bear 12 manner of fruits.
- There will be no more night, no more pain, no more struggles, no more heartaches, no

more death, because death will be
swallowed up in victory.

- There won't be any more sorrow in the air.
- Community-based education reminds us that we have this hope that soon and very soon He that will come, will come and will not tarry.