

Holy Reverence

By Steve Pruitt

And Moses said to Aaron, This is what the LORD spoke, saying: By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified. So Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 10:3 NKJV

Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu, suffered grave consequences because they dishonored God by offering profane fire before him. Webster's dictionary defines profane as showing disrespect or contempt toward sacred things; irreverence. These two priests attempted to enter God's presence with an offering made with their own hands; one which was not commanded by God. Their sin was approaching a holy God as though he were something common. Their offering was disrespectful and irreverent and did not honor God.

Jesus could not do many miracles (manifest all his glory) in his own country because the people did not honor him. As He taught in their synagogues the people were astonished and said, *Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary and his brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where did this man get all these things?* (Matthew 13:55-56) The very people who were watching and waiting for the Messiah missed his presence because they were too familiar with him. Again, God refused to manifest his presence among people who considered him as common.

Should we expect God to manifest his glory if we do not give him the honor and reverence due his name? We cannot expect God to permit us to come into his presence with an attitude of disrespect.

I am not making a case here for a "solemn" assembly each time we meet. The psalmist wrote, *Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.* (Psalm 2:11) The Hebrew word used for rejoice is *gwl* which means to spin around under the influence of any violent emotion. When we come to God in worship, whether dancing or bowing, we should come in reverence; honoring his majesty and kingship. We should always approach God with seriousness and respect. I understand that he is our Father, and we are invited to crawl up in his lap for hugs and kisses. But, we must also understand that he is Almighty God and honor and glory are due his name.

We also profane God's name when we treat his commandments as suggestions thus stunting the growth of fruit in our lives. The result of fruitlessness is a life that is not worthy of the name it bears; giving no glory to God. We esteem God's word as precious by living according to the precepts it teaches.

Are you too familiar with God? Do you haphazardly approach him as if he were common? Do you esteem his word as precious? Ask the Father to reveal areas in your life that profane his name.

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Scriptures for meditation:

Psalm 5:7

Psalm 119:162

Isaiah 29:13