

The Sin Of Nadab And Abihu

First a little historical background information. Moses delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage. They had seen the miracles of the Lord, including the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. God provided for them in the wilderness. God established the proper way to worship Him.

Nadab and Abihu were chosen, through being sons of Aaron, to be priests. The priests were to serve between God and the people (**Exodus 28:1-2**). God specified the manner of the worship. God also specified what was to be offered in the sacrifices (i.e., **Exodus 30:9**).

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane [“strange” – KJV; “unauthorized” – NIV] fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 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 10:1-3**).

Nadab and Abihu came to worshipped God and ended up dead. Had they taken the worship of God for granted? They were in the right (proper) place. They were worshipping in the manner prescribed, except they offered what God had not commanded. They worshipped God in their own way. Was this just a minor detail?

Many people today also say that they are worshipping God. Is what we consider as “minor” transgressions considered such by God? Just because worship is offered to God, does not mean that it is acceptable to God. Only God’s Word can tell us what is acceptable to Him.

Consider Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:1-8**). Consider Cain’s offering to God (**Genesis 4:3-8**). Consider King Saul response to God’s commands (**1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 15:13-23**). Consider what Ananias and Sapharia did (**Acts 5:1-11**).

Nadab and Abihu died because they were disobedient to God (**Numbers 3:2-4**). We must remember that God is holy (**Leviticus 10:3**). Reverence in all that we do is due to God. Aaron was told not to mourn their death nor were the people (**Leviticus 10:3-6**). Nor was Aaron to grieve while still consecrated for service to God (**Leviticus 10:6-7**).

We are reminded that this is not addressed about those who did not know God or His ways (i.e. **Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:15-17**). These were those who knew God and yet failed to serve God properly (**Matthew 15:8-9; Malachi 1:6-8**). Solomon would be described as not fully following the Lord (**1 Kings 1:6-8**).

Sins being considered as major or minor are such in our eyes. Yes, some have more serious consequences in the physical realm. However, sin is sin in God’s eyes. He gave His Son to die for the sins of the whole world (i.e., **John 3:16**). We are to worship God in Spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).

There are physical and spiritual consequences for our actions. Those who know the Master’s will and do not obey will be beaten with many stripes (**Luke 12:47-48**). We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). Is our life one of constant gratitude and thankfulness? Are we grateful for the privilege and responsibility of appearing before the glory and holiness of God?

Remember the parable of the Father with two sons. He told them to go and work in the field. One said yes, but did not go. The other said no, but later repented and went. Which one did the will of the Father (**Matthew 21:28-32**)? Which one are you?

It goes to the heart of the matter. Is our heart right with God (**Matthew 22:37**)? Worship belong to God. We are privileged to come into His Holy Place. We are to remember His holiness, in full reverence (**Hebrews 12:28-29**).

Something to think about!

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