

Missing the Mark

Leviticus 10

March 10th, 2019

Introduction:

- Have you ever felt like a spiritual failure? How do you process those feelings?
- Leviticus 10 is another episode in the failure of humanity...
 - The Garden / the Fall
 - The Flood / the descent of the humanity
 - Mount Sinai / the Golden Calf
 - The Last Supper / the Garden of Gethsemane
 - The Installation of the Priests / Nadab and Abihu
- What can we learn about God in this chapter?

Main Points: This chapter teaches us about God's...

1. Uncompromising holiness
 - Nadab and Abihu were disobedient
 - God has standards and he won't compromise
 - "Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored."
 - Acts 5.1-11 -- Ananias and Sapphira
 - God cannot and will not tolerate sin
 - Habakkuk 1.13a
 - Sin is more than a mistake - missing the mark, irreligion, transgression, iniquity or lack of integrity, rebellion, treachery, perversion, and abomination
 - Take God seriously -- God is good, but He is not safe
2. Unwavering faithfulness
 - God doesn't give up on the priests or his promises
 - God reiterates the roles and expectations of his priests
 - Stay sober, maintain standards - judge between that which is common and that which is holy, between clean and unclean, and teach the people what God expects of them
 - God compels Aaron and the other two sons to complete the ritual; the process of sacrifice and inauguration had to be completed

- God's concern was for all of Israel
 - Lamentations 3.22-23
 - 2Peter 3.9
 - Live in grace -- don't take advantage of it, but celebrate the fact that God is faithful to His promises
3. Unlimited compassion
 - They didn't finish the ritual properly
 - Mercy triumphs over judgment - James 2.13
 - "Even though the refusal to eat of the offering was technically a violation of law, Aaron's attitude does not reflect that flagrant disobedience represented by the sin of Nadab and Abihu. Hence, God's response is different. Even though Aaron's sorrow was based on the just judgment of wickedness, God is sympathetic. The Lord comforts those who have lost loved ones even when death comes as a consequence of their own sinfulness." - Wenham
 - The Words of Christ upon the Cross - Father forgive them...
 - Who gets saved in Acts? the Crowds, a Pharisee, a Roman centurion
 - God is the God of second chances -- there is no pit so deep that God can't reach down and save us when we call out to him

Conclusion:

- What happens to Nadab and Abihu seems harsh until we see that...
 - God's holiness can't be compromised
 - but He is unwavering in His faithfulness to His promises
 - and his compassion is unlimited to and for those who are humble and contrite in Spirit