

Profaning the Holy

Leviticus Chapter 22

Instructions for the Priests and how they relate:

Relate To The Holy *Gifts*

Relate The Holy *Gifts* To Others

Determine What Are Appropriate Holy *Gifts*

Lev 22:1 **1) Unclean Handling of the Holy** vs 1-9

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 22:2 "Tell Aaron and his sons to **be careful with the holy gifts** of the sons of Israel, which they dedicate to Me, so as not to profane My holy name; I am the LORD.

- God Begins by saying "BE CAREFUL WITH THE HOLY"
- The longer we are involved with a church or a particular ministry and ministry items we have the tendency to feel entitled to church stuff (familiarity breeds contempt)

Lev 22:3 "Say to them, 'If any man among all your descendants throughout your generations approaches the holy *gifts* which the sons of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from before Me; I am the LORD.

Lev 22:4 'No man of the descendants of Aaron, who is a leper or who has a discharge, may eat of the holy *gifts* until he is clean. And if one touches anything made unclean by a corpse or if a man has a seminal emission,

Lev 22:5 or if a man touches any teeming things by which he is made unclean, or any man by whom he is made unclean, whatever his uncleanness;

- Being unclean is not necessarily a career killer. These are areas in which the priest would become unclean.
- What is a career killer is knowingly handling the holy while unclean. Having no regard for God's things. " *that person shall be cut off*"
- The priest needs to take care not to handle holy things while unclean. Not to treat holy things as common.

Lev 22:6 a person who touches any such shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat of the holy *gifts* unless he has bathed his body in water.

Lev 22:7 'But when the sun sets, he will be clean, and afterward he shall eat of the holy *gifts*, for it is his food.

- Lamentations 3:23 Speaking of the Lord's Mercies and Compassion " *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*"
- We are to confess sin, repent of it and God wants us to move on. His mercies are new every morning.

Lev 22:8 'He shall not eat *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, becoming unclean by it; I am the LORD.

Lev 22:9 'They shall therefore keep My charge, so that they will not bear sin because of it and die thereby because they profane it; I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

- Which does God desire? To forbid unclean people to minister or for ministers to be clean?
- The contrast in verse 9 answers the question. Man who doesn't keep God's charge and profanes the holy will die, all the while it is the Lord who is trying to sanctify them.
- Possibly the death of the one who shows contempt is a purifying action for sanctifying the priesthood.

Lev 22:10 **2) Authorized Persons Only** vs 10-16

No layman, however, is to eat the holy *gift*; a sojourner with the priest or a hired man shall not eat of the holy *gift*.

Lev 22:11 'But if a priest buys a slave as *his* property with his money, that one may eat of it, and those who are born in his house may eat of his food.

Lev 22:12 'If a priest's daughter is married to a layman, she shall not eat of the offering of the *gifts*.

Lev 22:13 'But if a priest's daughter becomes a widow or divorced, and has no child and returns to her father's house as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's food; but no layman shall eat of it.

- God makes a very clear distinction between Family and Friends.
- Family of the priest are authorized to partake in the "holy gift" (the portion of the offering the priest were allowed to eat)
 - Family are people are what the IRS would call dependants
 - Slave (considered family not **just** property), Children (unwed daughters), Returning Daughter divorced or widowed (shows Gods adaptable grace)
- Friends were not allowed to eat of the "holy gift"
 - Friends are people not dependant on the priest
 - A Layman, A Visitor/Sojourner, A Hired man, A Daughter who is married
- You could imagine the difficult conversation between a priest and friends about taking a stand of what a friend can and cannot eat while he is visiting.

Lev 22:14 'But if a man eats a holy *gift* unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it and shall give the holy *gift* to the priest.

- God understands people can get into things unintentionally. God does not strike them dead. But He doesn't let it go either. These things need to be addressed and dealt with.

Lev 22:15 'They shall not profane the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel which they offer to the LORD,

Lev 22:16 and *so* cause them to bear punishment for guilt by eating their holy *gifts*; for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

- Again causes the scenario which results in punishment while in contrast the Lord is sanctifying them.

Lev 22:17 **3) The Perfect Gift** vs 17-33

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 22:18 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, 'Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the LORD for a burnt offering—

Lev 22:19 for you to be accepted—it *must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats.

Lev 22:20 'Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

Lev 22:21 'When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, **it must be perfect** to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.

- A Freewill Offering must be a male from cattle, sheep or goats - WITHOUT DEFECT
- IT MUST BE PERFECT!
 - The priest's in Jesus day took advantage of this by disqualifying people's offering and then charging outrageous price for their available qualified animals. (Matt 21:12-13)
- Any that has a defect will not be accepted. Cast offs are NOT Acceptable.

- What does the PERFECT GIFT say about the recipient? Or of the Donor?
- The Perfect is to maintain the picture of Jesus.
 - Matthew 5:48 "*our heavenly Father is perfect*"
 - John 10:30 "*I and my Father are one*"
 - John 14:8-9 "*Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'*"
 - Jesus Is Perfect.

Lev 22:22 Those *that are* blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the LORD.

Lev 22:23 In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted *member*, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

Lev 22:24 Also anything *with its testicles* bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the LORD, or sacrifice in your land,

Lev 22:25 nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you."

- God needs to remind Israel to not offer these things.
- The Lord knows if he didn't remind us to offer the best, not the second best, we would short change the Lord.

Lev 22:26 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 22:27 "When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be accepted as a sacrifice of an offering by fire to the LORD.

Lev 22:28 "But, *whether* it is an ox or a sheep, you shall not kill *both* it and its young in one day.

Lev 22:29 "When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

Lev 22:30 "It shall be eaten on the same day, you shall leave none of it until morning; I am the LORD.

- A new born animal must remain with its mother for 8 days before it is available for a sacrifice.
- The mother animal and its young cannot be sacrificed together on the same day.

Lev 22:31 "So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; **I am the LORD.**

Lev 22:32 "You shall not profane **My holy name**, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am **the LORD who sanctifies you**,

Lev 22:33 who **brought you out from the land of Egypt**, to be your God; I am the LORD."

- We Keep His Commandments Because:
 - Who He Is - "I am the Lord"
 - What He Is - "My Name is Holy"
 - What He is Doing - "the Lord who Sanctifies you"
 - What He Did - "Brought you out of Egypt"

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