

Leviticus Chapters 24

- The most important feature in the camp of Israel was the Tabernacle, the sanctuary where God dwelt.
- This is where the priests served and where the nation worshipped Him.
- It was the Tabernacle and the presence of God that made the camp holy, and set the people apart for God.
- In the same way the presence of the Holy Spirit within a believer makes them set apart and wholly for God's use.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 “¹⁶Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “¹⁹What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

- In this chapter God gives the people and us instruction about three things:
 1. The holy oil for the lamp stand.
 2. The holy bread for the table.
 3. His Holy name amongst the people.

V: 1-4 The Holy Oil: As high priest it was Aarons responsibility to keep the lamps burning in the Holy place.

- But it was the people's responsibility to bring the beaten olive oil.
- Oil is representative of the Holy Spirit.
- The golden lamp stand, beaten of pure gold itself represents the word of God:

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:130 “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

2 Peter 1:19 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”

- I have the responsibility, the opportunity, and the privilege in this fellowship to open the light of the word – to allow it to shine.

- What I do is to a great degree dependant on you. Your role is to bring the oil, to pray for me, pray for anointing, that there might be illumination – pray that the word of God would shine forth with power.
- Just as no one outside the Holy Place could see the light, so too non-believers can't see or understand the light of the word of God because they don't have the Holy Spirit in them.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

- When the priests would go into the Tabernacle, into the Holy Place: straight ahead would be the golden altar of incense which was before the veil that leads to the Holy of Hollies. To the right was the table of show bread, to the left was the golden lamp stand.
- There were no windows in the Holy Place; the golden lamp stand was the only source of light. When the priest offered incense upon the golden altar of incense he needed that light so he could see what he was doing.
- In the same way we can't pray effectively apart from the illumination of the word of God.
- That same light in the Holy Place revealed the bread and everything else in the Holy Place.
- The illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit makes the things of God real and clear to us.

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

V: 5-9 The Holy bread: 12 cakes of bread, representing the 12 tribes.

- Not only did the people bring the oil, but they brought the fine flour for the making of the bread.
- As the people brought the oil and the flour it was a point of contact between the priests who were pretty much spending all their time in the Tabernacle precincts and it would be pretty easy to get disconnected, to be out of touch with the people.
- The show bread in the Holy Place was also representative of the people being in the presence of God, abiding in the Lord.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing.”

V: 7 As a memorial; a memorial is intended to bring something to memory.

- At every Sabbath the bread was changed out for fresh bread.
- A portion of the bread would be treated like a meat offering, it would be anointed with pure frankincense, the incense from the altar, (symbolizing prayer over the nation) then burned up upon the altar.
- Then the priests would sit and partake of the remainder of the bread within the holy place – because the bread is holy unto the Lord.
- That “memorial” can be taken two ways:
 1. God remembering His people who are before Him continually.

Hebrews 13:5 “... I will never leave you or forsake you.”

2. Is relative to what God has done;
 - Knowing that Jesus is “the bread of life” (John 6:48), and just like Jesus said:

1 Corinthians 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.”

V: 10-11 The Holy name of God: This man who was half Israelite and half Egyptian:

1. The basis for obedience to the law is the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

2. People who blaspheme His holy name have no fear of God in their hearts.
 - Every Jew knew the 3rd commandment:

Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.”

- To respect a name is to respect the person who bears that name, and our highest respect should be to the Lord.

V: 10-11 (cont.)

- The Jews revere God's name to the point that they won't even pronounce it, or write it down. They eliminate the vowels when they write it, thus the Tetragrammaton (YHWH), the unspeakable name of the Lord.
- Notice in our text: "**blasphemed the name**"... "*of the LORD*" is in italics, meaning it was added later for clarification.

1st mention: sets precedent.

Blasphemed: (H5344) naqab, naw-kab'; curse, strike through, appoint, blaspheme.

Curse: (H7043) qalal, kawal; despise, bring into contempt, lightly esteem.

- Shelomith: "Peaceableness" or "Peaceful", no name given of the father, might have been dead or back in Egypt.
- Mixed marriages (2 Corinthians 6:14) always present difficulties for believers, in either event we see that he didn't grow up learning the proper respect for the Lord.

Eventually whatever is in our heart will come out of our lips:

Matthew 12:34 "... **for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**"

- Had this man been a Jew, Moses would have known what to do.
- This is the first time that we see Moses didn't quite know what to do so he enquires of the Lord.
- Not being sure of what the Lord would want, they shut him up in jail, pending the Lord's decision.
- Generally a good move whenever we're not sure what to do, wait on the Lord for instruction.

James 1:5 "**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**"

- God speaks to those who pray and seek Him sincerely, admitting that we lack wisdom and that we need His counsel.

Psalms 25:9 "**The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach His way.**"

- God's will is not a mystery, the issue is will we do what He tells us to do.

V: 13-14 The Lord speaks and instructs them to apply capital punishment, this judgment originates from God, not from Moses or some other man.

- The punishment reveals the severity of the offense, and acts as a deterrent.
- In Singapore they don't have a drug problem. Why is that? Anyone caught in possession of narcotics is immediately shot. They actually enforce it, everybody knows it, hence no drug problem.
- Leniency breeds contempt for the law, we're pretty lenient; hence we have a tremendous drug problem in this country.
- The first mention of capital punishment is for killing a man, murder – killing someone who is made in the image of God, a representation of God.
- Blaspheming the name of God, the representation of God, which is holy and to be highly esteemed.
- Laying their hands upon the man's head; identifying him / giving back the sin. Then those who personally witnessed the offense would be the first to cast the stones.

Deuteronomy 17:7 “The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.”

V: 15-16 The responsibility of protecting God's Holy name is in part placed upon the people, they are to enforce this.

- It is clear that whoever does this brings judgment upon themselves, they shall bear their sin.
- Anyone living in the camp who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death.
- This is probably the law that the Pharisees referred to when they sought to kill Jesus:

John 19:7 “The Jews answered him, we have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

V: 17-21 Anyone who commits murder shall be put to death.

- Anyone who kills someone else's animal shall make it good, replace the animal, making restitution.

- Anyone who causes and injury to someone else shall receive the same.
- There is the aspect of justice that goes both ways: if you put someone's eye out, then your eye shall be put out, but just that – limiting it to one eye as opposed to both or even being killed.
- The punishment should fit the crime as opposed to being excessive.
- If someone gets their tooth knocked out, human tendency is to knock all the other guys teeth out, we tend toward retribution and revenge which usually goes beyond the original offense – this command puts a limit on what can be done.

V: 22 One law for the citizen, the same law for the stranger.

Acts 10:34 "... of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

V: 23 Moses informs the people what the Lord's command is, and the people are obedient taking the man out of the camp and stoning him.

- While deterrence is certainly one effect of capital punishment; the real issue is defending and upholding the law.
- God doesn't require capital punishment to those who blaspheme His Holy name today, He is patient and long suffering, but unless there is repentance that day of reckoning will one day arrive:

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

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- In Leviticus Ch. 23, the detailing of 7 feasts of God.
 - We learned that they were prophetic, the 1st 4 having been fulfilled, the last three waiting to be fulfilled.
 - This chapter is prophetic as well:
 - The first 9 verses are what God intended; for the people to worship in Spirit and in truth.
 - The remainder of the chapter deals with blasphemy and just punishment.
 - This is a picture of how the nation would start out, and how they would end.
 - They would end up cursing God, and saying "His blood be upon us."
 - The next chapter speaks of the year of jubilee – the slaves set free.

Holy Oil = Holy Spirit
Holy bread = Jesus, the Son.
Holy name = the Father

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:

Ref. Leviticus.24