

Holy Love
King Jesus, Pt. 5
Leviticus 10:1-3, 2 Samuel 6:1-10

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I. INTRODUCTION

a. Sometimes in life we have to face what we would call a “cold hard truth.”

- i. This is a truth that you cannot negotiate with. You can't bend the rules or somehow avoid the implications of this truth.
- ii. Let me give you an example.
 - I read a news story last week about two men who tragically lost their lives in an auto accident down in Louisiana.
 1. They had come up to a draw bridge that was up to let a boat pass by.
 2. One man got out of his car to go and lift the arm that was down to block traffic.
 3. Got back in the car, and they proceeded to try and ramp their Chevrolet Cruze across the opening of the drawbridge.
 - And they encountered the cold hard truth that cars don't have the same relationship with gravity that they seem to do in the movies.
 1. And the car plummeted into the water.
 - Gravity is a cold hard truth that does not care about your feelings. It does not care if you get offended by it. It cannot be negotiated with. We don't not have a choice but to respect it.
- iii. **My kids often encounter these kinds of cold hard truths in our house.**
 - My personal favorite is when they refuse to eat their dinner.



1. We'll often tell them that they don't have to eat their dinner, but if they don't, we'll put it in the refrigerator, and they will have to eat it for breakfast in the morning.
 2. And they think we're bluffing....
 3. Until the morning when they encounter the literally cold hard truth that if they're hungry, they can eat their dinner.
 4. No amount of whining or accusations of torture will change our minds.
- iv. **And for all of us, as we grow up, we have to learn these cold hard truths and organize our lives around them because it is not an option to expect these truths to change to accommodate us.**
- When you become an adult, you have to work.
 - You need to go to the dentist twice a year, or your teeth will fall out.
 1. I tried to avoid that truth in my 20's. And I learned my lesson...
 - Swiping a credit card means you owe someone else money and they will charge you insane interest on it.
 1. Cold Hard Truth
- v. **I think we get the point and this morning, and I want us to look at two texts in the Bible where see people encounter a truth like this.**
- And let me tell you up front, these are hard texts to read.
 - Because when we read them, we are forced to face a truth like this, and there is going to be a part of us that thinks we should be able to negotiate with it.



1. There is a part of this truth that is offensive to us.
 2. And we think that we shouldn't have to be subject to it.
- But like any cold hard truth, we can negotiate all we want, we can complain all we want, but it doesn't change reality.

II. LEVITICUS 10:1-3

a. The first text I want us to look at is Leviticus 10:1-3. But before we read, let me give you the context.

- i. The book of Exodus begins with the story of how God rescued Israel from their slavery in Egypt.
 - And Israel is walking in the desert and headed to the promised land.
 1. And they make a stop at Mt. Sinai where God gives Moses and the people of Israel the law.
 2. And as a part of that law, he gives them instructions on how to build the tabernacle.
 - The tabernacle was basically a mobile temple where God's presence would dwell, where the people would worship God, and where they would sacrifice to God.
 1. Now, inside the tabernacle was an inner chamber called the Holy of Holies.
 2. This was a chamber where they were told to put the ark of the covenant.
 3. This is what is pictured here on the screen.
 4. It's a golden box and inside this box are the tablets with the Ten Commandments engraved on them.



5. These tablets represented the Word and the Presence of God with his people.
 6. And as you see in this image, on top of the ark is what we call the mercy seat with these two golden cherubim that surrounded the ark.
 7. And if you remember when we studied Genesis 3 together a few weeks ago, we learned that God placed a cherubim to guard the Garden of Eden when He kicked Adam and Eve out.
 8. So, the Cherubim represents the fact that sinful, fallen mankind is not welcome in the presence of God.
 9. This is why the ark, which represents the presence of God, was placed in an inner chamber inside the tabernacle, and that chamber was curtained off with these curtains that had cherubim embroidered into it.
 10. It was a KEEP OUT sign to God's people.
- ii. **Now, Exodus ends with these instructions on how to build the tabernacle. Then the book of Leviticus begins and starts with instructions on the sacrificial system and how God's people were to worship in the tabernacle.**
- And God commissions this guy named Aaron and his sons to be the priests that would facilitate worship in the tabernacle.
 1. So, in Leviticus 8, we read about the installation ceremony of Aaron and his sons as priests.
 2. In Leviticus 9, we read about the first worship service in the tabernacle.



- iii. Okay, so this is the context of Leviticus 10 where we are going to read about two of Aaron's sons who are priests and their names are Nadab and Abihu.
- They're young. They just went through all this pomp and circumstance as they were commissioned as priests. They have to wear these ornate robes and ornaments. They were important people.
 - And they probably had some youthful, arrogant zeal about them...although we don't know for sure.

b. Read Leviticus 10:1-3.

- i. It was just the first days on the job as a priest in the tabernacle.

- And what we know is Nadab and Abihu performed a ritual that was not according to the very detailed instructions that the Lord had given them.
 1. And what we also know from later Scriptures is that they did this inside the Holy of Holies where they were not permitted to enter.
- And God immediately, without hesitation, strikes them dead.

- ii. **And this is what God says to Moses - Read v.3 again.**

- This was the cold hard truth that Nadab and Abihu encountered.
- That God is holy. That he commands reverence and obedience. And it is a grave sin to be flippant about His Word and His glory.
 1. There is no negotiation. It doesn't matter if you're offended by it.



- I had a Bible Professor in college who said we need to remove this story from our Bible because God would never act this violently and swiftly.
 1. It doesn't matter what some academic professor says, God is holy, and he will demonstrate his holiness, and that professor will one day encounter that truth and will no longer be able to open his mouth.
 2. God will not be impressed with the letters next to his name.
 3. God is holy and he will be glorified.
- iii. Let me give you another example from 2 Samuel 6.

III. 2 SAMUEL 6:1-10

a. Now later on in Israel's history, the ark of the covenant that we just talked about was captured by the Philistines in battle.

- i. But in 1 Samuel, the Philistines return the Ark of the Covenant and it was stored in a town called Kiriath-jearim.
 - After a while, David becomes King of Israel and he wants to bring the Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem.

b. **Read 2 Samuel 6:1-9.**

- i. Why would God strike a man dead for preventing the Ark of the Covenant from falling on the ground?
 - Sure, maybe he wasn't supposed to touch it. But his heart was pure. He had authentic motives.



- ii. **The problem is God had given His people very specific instructions on how the Ark of the Covenant was to be transported.**
- In Numbers 4, God makes it very clear that the only people who are allowed to carry the Ark of the Covenant are the Kohathites, which was a clan within the Levite Tribe of Israel.
 1. So, you have a very specific group of people who were charged by God for the very specific task of transporting the Ark.
 2. And God warns them in Numbers 4 that if you touch it, you will die!
 - Therefore, the Ark had to be transported a very specific way.
 1. There were golden rings on each corner of the ark where the Kohathites would insert wooden poles through the holes to carry the ark on their shoulders without touching it.
 2. They also had multiple people carrying it so as to make sure there was not a situation where it might fall to the ground and someone would have to catch it like Uzzah did.
- iii. **What we have here is a failure of leadership and an act of irreverence by David in how he oversaw the transportation of the Ark.**
- And Uzzah lost his life because David thought it was okay to transport the Ark on a cart.
 - And the text tells us in v.9 that David was afraid of God.



- iv. Because David encounters the cold hard truth that God is holy, and that when it comes to reverence and obedience, there is no middle ground, there is no negotiation...God will demonstrate his holiness and defend his glory.

IV. SERIES PLUG

- a. **And the reason that I wanted us to look at these two passages this morning together is because we are in the midst of a sermon series right now called KING JESUS.**
 - i. And this series is all about how your joy is found in submitting all of your life to Jesus as your King.
 - And as a part of this series, we have been building a theology together so we can be clear on what we believe about God and what we believe about ourselves.
 1. So, we have put into our theology three theological statements so far:
 - ii. The first week, we studied creation, and this was our statement (say it out loud with me):
 - **In love, God created me not to be the center of my story.**
 - That's right, we studied how God created all of us to be image bearers of God.
 1. That we would represent God with all of our lives, and he would be the point and the center of our lives.
 - iii. The second week, we studied the fall of mankind into sin and this was our statement:



- In sin, I have abused God, creation, and others in order to be the center of my story.
 - The essence of sin is that we have rejected God and have begun to live our lives with ourselves at the center.
- iv. Last week, we studied examples of how living with ourselves at the center actually robs us of our joy and this was our statement:
- There is no joy when I am the center of my story.
 - IF YOU MISSED, GO ONLINE AND LISTEN.

b. And this week, here is what we need to add to our Theology.

- i. *God will be center of my story whether I like it or not.*
- This is what it means that God is holy.
 1. The very purpose of our lives and the very purpose of all of creation is to point to Him, to give Him glory, to submit to His Word.
 - And this is just one of those truths where there is no negotiation. There is no if's or but's. It doesn't matter how this makes us feel or if we are offended by it.
 1. God is holy, he's not asking to be the center of our lives, he demands it, and at the end of the day, He will be the center of our story whether we like it or not.
- ii. When we think about Nadab and Abihu, if they had a true reverence for God and if they wanted God to be the center of their lives, then they would have taken God seriously when it came to his instructions when it comes to worship at the tabernacle.



- When we think about David. If David was truly more motivated at giving God glory in bringing the ark back to Jerusalem instead of his own glory for being the King to bring the Ark back, he would have taken God seriously when it comes to his specific instructions to how the Ark should be transported.
- iii. Here is the point, God is holy, He has given us His Word, He is our creator and our King, He has demanded to be the center of our lives, and that is not something we should be flippant about.

V. BEING FLIPPANT WITH THE HOLINESS OF GOD

a. I believe that we have a problem in our churches today when it comes to being flippant about the holiness of God.

- i. If you remember last week, we talked about the definition of secularism.
 - Secularism is the belief that humanity can achieve the Kingdom, or Utopia, the world that we want, by elevating self and shedding off external authority.
 1. Especially the external authority that is God and His Word.
 - And one of the ways that secularism has leaked into the church is by diminishing our view of the holiness of God.

b.



c. Just drive around the Washington DC Metropolitan Area and look at church signs.

- i. You will see churches that have phrases on their signs that say things like “God is still speaking...”
 - Now, God certainly can still speak today and reveal Himself in anyway that he wants, but one thing we know for sure because God has told us this is that He will never contradict Himself and He never changes.
 - But this phrase “God is still speaking” is code for the belief that we don’t have to follow or submit to everything in this book....
 1. Whatever our culture finds to be inappropriate, offensive, or politically incorrect, we are free to just say...well God is still speaking...He has put out a revised edition of the Holy Bible under the authority of culture... and we are free to decide what included in that revised edition and what is not.
- ii. **And just like Nadab, Abihu, and David encountered the cold, hard, truth of the Holiness of God, so will each and every human being.**
 - We will all one day have to face the holiness of God.
 1. Every single one of us will have a moment like Aaron had when he lost his sons, where God demonstrated his holiness, and he remained silent.



- iii. And this morning what I want to show you is that this is good news to us.
 - I've said that the holiness of God is a cold, hard truth.
 - I'm saying that because that phrase is an English idiom to describe a truth that is set and established and there is nothing you can do to change it or avoid it.
- iv. But the holiness of God is not cold and hard...it is the very basis of God's deep love for us.

d. This is what we have been talking about this entire sermon series.

- i. In love, God created me not to be the center of my story.
 - God created me to bear His image. To represent Him with my life. To follow and trust in His Word, not my own.
 - 1. To revere His holiness and live my life with care to bring glory and honor to His name and not my own.
 - And God created us this way in love because it is when we live our lives revering the holiness of God where our joy is found.
- ii. And when we begin to be flippant about the holiness of God, you are guaranteed for two things to happen in your life...
 - First, you will rationalize your sin.
 - Second, you'll cheapen the cross.



VI. RATIONALIZING SIN

a. We rationalize our sin when the holiness of God is not a source of conviction in our lives.

- i. In other words, when we don't revere God and His authority in our lives, we will find a reason to do what we want to do and sin in the ways that we want to sin.
 - It's when we are flippant about the holiness of God when secularism gets a foothold in our faith.
 - It's when we are flippant about the holiness of God where we try to find loopholes in God's word.
 - It's when we are flippant about the holiness of God where we begin to form habits of acceptable sins in our churches.
 1. Where gossip, and complaining, and bitterness, and cliques, and worldliness becomes normal in our communities.

b. And the reality is, when we rationalize our sin, we volunteer ourselves for misery instead of joy.

- i. Because in order to continue to rationalize our sin, we have to stay far from God, we have to protect our conscience from conviction, we have to make sure our relationships at church stay superficial and do not go deep.
 - Because if we pursue intimacy with God and if we pursue deep relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, you cannot continue to rationalize sin.



- And life is miserable when we're trying to keep God at a distance and all our relationships shallow.
- ii. God's holiness is good news to us because when we take it seriously, we cannot rationalize sin and it forces us to get real and to get deep and to be fully known...instead of keeping it on the surface.

VII. CHEAPENING THE CROSS

a. But even more importantly, when we are flippant about the holiness of God, we cheapen the cross of Jesus Christ.

- i. You know, Nadab and Abihu were struck down by God because they entered the Holy of Holies and offered incense to God against his instructions.
 - Well, look at this about six chapters later in Leviticus 16...**Read Leviticus 16:1-3a.**
- ii. In order for a Priest to enter the Holy of Holies, it had to be on a certain day of the year (The Day of Atonement of Yom Kippur) and it had to be in a very specific way.
 - The priest would have to offer a sacrifice to God to cleanse Him of His sins so that he was pure.
 - And then he would enter the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice to God on behalf of all of the people of Israel, so they would be cleansed of their sins.



- iii. And Hebrews 9 explains to us that when Jesus went to the cross, He didn't enter the Holy of Holies on the ground in the temple, but he went before the true presence of God in Heaven.
- Having lived a perfectly righteous life, he needed no sacrifice to purify Himself.
 - And instead of shedding the blood of some goat to purify us of our sins, he shed His own blood.
 1. And because he was the perfect sacrifice, with his sacrifice, he ended all blood sacrifices. He was the last.
 2. His blood shed on the cross satisfied God's wrath against sin and insults to His holiness for all eternity for those who call upon Jesus as their savior.
 - And it was necessary for Jesus, the Son of God, the only man to live a perfectly righteous life, to offer up Himself on the cross precisely because God is Holy and takes sin seriously.
- iv. God is so holy, that the only way you and I can stand before the holiness of God and not have the same result as Uzzah or Nadab and Abihu is through the cross of Jesus Christ.
- Through the blood of God's own son.
- v. God is so holy, there is not enough good deeds we could ever do that would outweigh our sin against God.
- God is so holy, our only shot is the mercy of the cross.
 - God is so holy, all we have is grace, not merit.



- vi. And if we're flippant about the holiness of God, then our salvation is based on merit, it is not based on grace.
- Because when we're flippant about the holiness of God we cheapen the cross.
 1. We act as if it was unnecessary for Jesus to suffer and die in our place.

b. It's good news to us this morning that God is holy. Because God's holiness is the foundation of His love for us.

- i. In love, God does not overlook our sin.
- He is not okay with our sin. Even our little acceptable sins. They are insults to His holiness.
 - But because of the cross, when we begin to take our sin seriously, we should not feel condemnation, but rather we should run to Jesus
 - Because God has dealt with our sin through Jesus on the cross of Jesus Christ.
 1. Colossians 1:21-22 - "Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds expressed in your evil actions. ²² But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him."
 - And no true Christian stands at the foot of the cross and is flippant about the holiness of God.
 1. Because we know what Jesus had to endure so we could be holy as He is holy.



- ii. I want us to be a church that reveres the holiness of God.
 - I want us to be a church that takes repentance seriously.
 - I want us to be a church that points one another to Jesus, the one who makes us holy.

VIII. COMMUNION AND CLOSE

a. But here is the truth all of us need to think about this morning.

- i. We will all encounter the holiness of God and He will be the center of our story whether we like it or not.
 - God will be glorified in the story of every single human being on this planet, no exceptions.
- ii. Because God will avenge our sin against His holiness in one of two ways...through the cross or through judgement.
 - God will be glorified in those who call upon Jesus as their Savior, have their sins forgiven based on the blood of Jesus, and live their lives in submission to God as their King.
 - Or, God will be glorified in his judgement upon those who continue to live their lives in sin with no repentance.



b. How will God be glorified in your life? Because, whether you like it or not, he will.

- i. And if you have called upon Jesus as your Savior and you have surrendered your life to God as your King...
- I want to invite you, this morning, to celebrate that and to remember the cross through taking communion with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - We eat this meal regularly together to remember what Christ has done so that we could be reconciled with a Holy God.
 1. We take bread and break it...and we remember that the body of Jesus was broken so that we wouldn't have to face the wrath of God against our sin.
 2. We take the cup and drink and we remember how the blood of Jesus was poured out so we could be cleansed of our sin and presented to God as holy people.
 - So, this morning after I pray, I invite you to take a few moments to pray and celebrate what Christ has done for you.
 1. Then come forward and take of the bread and cup as you remember the cross.
- ii. **But if you have not called upon Jesus as your Savior and surrendered your life to God, there is no better time to do that than right now.**
- This meal is not open to those who have not trusted in Christ as their Savior but that can change.



- God is holy. And that is a truth that you cannot avoid. And that is weight that you will not be able to overcome.
- You need a Savior.
- And if you would like to talk and pray with someone this morning in order to trust in Jesus as your Savior for the forgiveness of your sins, I invite you to come forward.
 1. During our time of communion, our closing worship, and after our service, we will have prayer ministers up front who would like to pray with you and then serve you your first communion meal where you can celebrate the cross of Jesus Christ.

c. But let's all close our time together reflecting on the holiness of God as we take communion, praising God for His holiness through song, and then living our lives as we leave here revering His holiness.

IX. PRAY

