

The pathway and antechamber of truly great men of God

In the first gathering of people before God, God wanted to appear before the people in His Glory

➤ God wanted to reveal His Glory to the people

He had already said to them, out of all the people on the earth you can be my people. You can be a Holy Nation of mine dedicated to me as priests but -

➤ only if you heed my instructions and obey me.

As so God was about to appear to the people at large and He instructed them how to prepare for that.

He said if you come before me none of you shall appear before me empty handed. And moreover, only the ones I choose may draw near to me.

And it was so the people heeded God's instructions and Aaron lifted his hands before the people and blessed them.

- Then Aaron and Moses went to the tabernacle where God appears and when they came out they blessed the people again.

Then the Lord revealed Himself in Glory to the people at large and fire came out from the presence of the Lord.

- The fire consumed their sacrifices - the ones prepared for God.

When the people saw this they were awe-struck - they shouted and fell on their faces.

In the process of time certain individuals whom God had chosen to draw near to him on behalf of the people lost their zeal and reverence for God.

They simply appeared before Him out of duty and obligation and not in holiness as the Lord required.

➤ God struck them down.

God says:

By those who come near Me, I must be regarded as Holy
and before all the people I must be Glorified.

As it was also true, some of the people were dissatisfied that God would choose only certain people to represent him on behalf of the people within the Tabernacle of Glory.

They wanted a larger role before the people than what God allotted them and they were indignant with God.

➤ This also displeased God

God struck them down also.

And so it is with many people that God chooses. In the process of time they loose their zeal and desire for God. And so they approach God out of duty and obligation.

➤ This displeases God

Similarly, it is the same with others that He chooses. They want a larger role than what He has given them. And so they take by force.

➤ This too displeases God

Those that lose their zeal for God no longer regard God as Holy.

Those that take positions by force name themselves before the people like Reverend, Dr., and PhD. Thus, they elevate themselves before the people.

➤ This displeases God.

Humility is the gateway and the antechamber to God.

Pride is the pathway to destruction.

➤ Which of these do you think pleases God?

Joshua is a fine example of someone who kept the fires of the Holy Spirit burning.

For over forty years he kept his passion for God alive and maintained a reverent fear of God.

➤ *After about forty years God said to Joshua:*

Today I have rolled off of you the reproach of Egypt.

It was Joshua and Caleb who witnessed God's promises having heard about it and having seen it far off while in the wilderness.

Upon arriving to the other side of the Jordan, they observed the Passover on the 14th day of the first month on the grasslands of Jericho.

➤ The day after that Passover they ate some of the produce of the ground and that very same day the Manna ceased.

It was shortly thereafter Joshua neared toward Jericho and encountered the Lord walking on the earth dressed as a Warrior going to battle.

And there He was, the Lord, standing in front of Joshua -
He was face to face with Joshua with a sword drawn. And
as Joshua approached closer said:

Are you for us or for our enemies?

“No; rather I have come now as captain of the army of the Lord.”

Then Joshua fell with his face toward the earth and bowed down, and said to him, **WHAT HAS MY LORD TO SAY TO HIS SERVANT?**

Joshua was keenly interested in what God had to say.

➤ This pleased God

Are you interested in what God has to say?

Can you keep the fires of the Spirit burning?

Are you content with the role God has commanded of you?

Pride blinds a person's ability to discern so they cannot perceive what power is working in them.

Humility precedes honor. Truly it is the pathway and the antechamber of truly great men of God.

Closing