

Strange Fire

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 10.

B. When everything was done as God commanded, the personal presence of God was manifest.

C. The glory of the Lord is the character of Christ.

II. The Shekinah glory of God reached out in judgment and destroyed priests.

A. The priests substituted a different kind of incense than what was demanded by God.

B. This appears unfair of God, and many think that God is unjust because of it.

1. God is acting just as much in love here as any other part of the Bible—if we do not react this way, there is something wrong with us.

2. This sin was not a sin of ignorance but one of presumption.

3. This was treated severely because it distorted God's explanation of Himself.

4. Frankincense was to be offered.

a. It was never to be offered until it was burned.

b. Frankincense is intended to picture the prayers of thankfulness that arise out of blessings as well as burning trials.

5. The priests wrongfully taught that God is here to make man happy.

1. True happiness comes from a relationship of freedom as we learn to give our lives over to God.

2. God has put us through trials giving us an opportunity to manifest His life.

3. Falling into a trial is an opportunity to delight the heart of God by our response.

6. God uses this situation as an object lesson—it only happened once.

III. We offer strange fire whenever we depart from the Word of the Lord in our counsel toward others.

IV. We are in the priesthood—God has called us to it.

V. God is to be respected, but all of His actions are actions of love.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone claiming that this judgment of God was unfair?

2. How can trials be formative for the believer?

3. Should we expect this kind of reaction from God more often? Explain your answer.
