

## THE INIQUITY OF THE SANCTUARY

*Num. 18:1 - Then Jehovah said to Aaron,  
You and your sons and your father's household with you shall bear the **iniquity of the sanctuary**;  
and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.*

*Rom 11:36 - Because out **from** Him and **through** Him and **to** Him are all things.  
**To Him be the glory forever. Amen.***

### ❖ God's Word shows us

- There are sins committed in our **daily life**
  - **sins** that are committed **before man**
  - sins that are committed against **ordinary laws**
- There are sins committed in the **work**
  - **sins** that are committed **before God**
  - sins that are committed against **the sanctuary**

### ❖ The sins of the priests were iniquities committed against the sanctuary.

- A **worker** of the Lord can commit an additional kind of sin.
- A sin pertaining to the work may not necessarily involve such things as pride or jealousy.
  - when the **flesh** is manifested,
  - when the **self-will** is exposed,
  - when one **speaks rashly** or makes suggestions rashly, one often commits the special sin that pertains to the work
- Sinning in the work **means offending God** in His **holiness, glory, and sovereignty**.

### ❖ Three very important considerations in God's work.

- First, the **initiation** of God's work must be according to His **will**.
  - no work can be initiated by ourselves
  - no decision should be made through the discussion of two or three brothers
  - do not be His counselor (Job 38:2-3; Rom. 11:34)
  - **God can only be satisfied when His will is fulfilled**
- Second, the **advance** of God's work must be according to His **power**.
  - no work can be carried out by our own strength or ability
  - **God's work can only be accomplished by God's power**
- Third, the **result** of God's work must be for His **glory**.
  - no work should result in our own glory
  - **God's work is God's glory; God wants to have all the glory**
    - He can give everything to man.
    - He is even willing to give His Son to man.
    - **But** He will not give His glory to man.
    - we can only enter into the Lord's glory
    - stealing God's glory is committing the iniquity of the sanctuary

❖ We cannot consider any of God's work as a common thing

- There is **distinction** between **holy things** and **common things**.
- No priest could consider his work a common thing.
    - the priests changed the showbread, dressed the lamp, and burned the incense
    - they did the same things day after day and year after year
    - but **if** they were just a **little bit careless**, they would have committed the **iniquity of the sanctuary** and **died**
  - **If** a man enters the **Holy of Holies**, he should only **see the ark**, which is Christ, and the **cherubim** above the ark, which represent **God's glory**
  - We should not fall into unholiness through touching something in a common way.
    - the **first time** you **baptized** someone,
      - you were probably quite serious
      - **but** after five or ten times, it becomes common to you
    - The **first time** a worker has to **give a message**,
      - he is very serious
      - **but** after he speaks a few more times, it becomes a common thing to him
    - The **first time** we have to **bless the bread** we are solemnly aware of its significance.
      - we are very careful before the Lord, and we are truly like the priests
      - **but gradually**, we **become more relaxed**
      - our spiritual feeling is not as strong as before, and we have little spirit for prayer and worship
  - A person may think that since he has done it before, he can do the same thing today. In this way he loses his **spiritual freshness** and the **power of life**. There are three results or punishments for the iniquity of the sanctuary.
    - First, there is a **loss of the power of life**; a man becomes stale.
    - Second, there is the **experience of spiritual death**; there may even be sicknesses or physical death.
    - Third, there will be the **judgment** at the **judgment seat**.

*(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, (Set 2) Vol. 42: Conferences, Messages, and Fellowship (2), Chapter 16)*

- Matt. 7:21 - **Not everyone** who says to Me, **Lord, Lord**, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt. 7:22 - Many will say to Me **in that day**, Lord, Lord, *was it* not in Your name *that* we prophesied, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name did many works of power?
- Matt. 7:23 - And then I will declare to them: **I never knew you**. Depart from Me, **you workers of lawlessness**.
- Matt. 25:21 - His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. **Enter into the joy of your master**.
- Matt. 25:23 - His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. **Enter into the joy of your master**.
- Heb. 2:10 - For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in **leading many sons into glory**, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- Rom. 8:30 - And those whom He **predestinated**, these He also called; and those whom He **called**, these He also justified; and those whom He **justified**, these He also **glorified**.