

## PREPARED FOR MINISTRY #4 “Holiness in Ministry”

Exodus 28:35-41

Exodus 28-29 are God’s lengthy instruction of preparing Aaron/sons for the priesthood. Will look at the responsibility of ministry.

**Exodus 28:35–41** <sup>35</sup>And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the Lord and when he comes out, that he may not die. <sup>36</sup>“You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD <sup>37</sup>And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup>So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord. <sup>39</sup>“You shall skillfully weave the tunic of fine linen thread, you shall make the turban of fine linen, and you shall make the sash of woven work. <sup>40</sup>“For Aaron’s sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. <sup>41</sup>So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

### I. THE CHOICE OF HOLINESS

#### A. There are many things you cannot choose in life

##### 1. Talent/placement/calling

a. **1 Corinthians 12:5** *There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.*

##### 2. Men often focus on things that are not the most important

a. Skills alone b. Technology: Waterfalls/Eagles c. Building decor

#### B. But you can choose to be holy: Pure/clean

##### 1. Our text is God’s record of what a man needs to minister for God: Holiness!

a. An awareness/an awesomeness: *It matters what I am! It matters what I do!*

1. Different: Set apart - not the same as others 2. Ready for sacred/God’s uses

b. Holiness is what qualifies a man to minister – and enables a man to minister

##### 2. Holiness is unto the Lord – it is for the Lord!

a. **V6** *And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.*

1. We do it for God – because it pleases Him 2. We do it for Him – so we can do His will

### II. THE DIMENSIONS OF HOLINESS

#### A. Holiness involves our actions

##### 1. Holiness involves what we look at: Psalm 101:3 I will not look at anything wicked...

##### 2. Holiness involves what we take into us: Strange OT laws about food – what we ingest

a. What we read/watch//listen to: Music/books/Movies/TV/internet...

1. *There is not one man in a thousand, whose spiritual eyes are more readily moved by the beauty of Christ because he has just seen a bare breast with his buddies.*

3. **Holiness involves our minds: Exodus 28:38** Aaron must wear this on his forehead. In this way, he will be blamed if anything is wrong with the gifts of the Israelites. Aaron must always wear this on his head so the LORD will accept the gifts of the people.

a. You can’t live clean if your mind is dirty: *Thinking about/fantasizing about sin*

### III. THE EFFECTS OF HOLINESS

**A. Holiness affects you: Exodus 28:35** Aaron must wear this robe when he serves as priest. The ringing of the bells will be heard when he enters and leaves the Holy Place before the LORD so that Aaron will not die.

##### 1. When we are not holy – things die inside: Love for God/hunger for His will

a. *I’m not feeling it/I’m having doubts...sometimes b/c we have not been living holy!*

**B. Holiness affects other people v41** *that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.*

##### 1. The testimony of holiness: *These were seen by others*

a. We don’t have the right to damage other people (wife/children/NC’s) by our actions

##### 2. The ability to minister effectively to others

a. Robert Murray McCheyne, to a young ministerial student: *I know you will study hard, but do not forget the culture of the inner man - the heart. How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his sabre clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God’s sword, His instrument—I trust, a chosen vessel unto Him to bear His name. In great measure, according to the purity of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.*