

## PREPARED FOR MINISTRY #1 “Distinction of Ministry”

Exodus 28:1-4

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

**Exodus 28:1-4** <sup>1</sup>“Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. <sup>2</sup>And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. <sup>3</sup>So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. <sup>4</sup>And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

### I. MINISTRY IS THE CHOICE OF GOD

A. Ministry is not merely a personal preference (wrong view of ministry)

1. He needed a job...he always wanted to be...he has a big mouth

a. SA: Self-appointed Pastors

B. Our text shows us that ministry is God's choice

1. Ultimately – it is God that chooses men for ministry! **v1** Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar

b. **Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2. **This gives us confidence:**

a. If we don't feel qualified/see we lack things – we know that God will help us if He told us to do it!

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

3. **This gives us confidence in hard times**

a. When we are discouraged at lack results or problems that occur

b. When we are criticized or attacked: Why am I doing this? BC God told me to!

1. This is why you need to ask God to make your calling clear

4. **This gives people confidence:** You're not doing this just b/c you wanted to/you needed a job

a. There is a supernatural equipping that comes with calling – to help people

### II. CHARACTER DETERMINES DESTINY

A. Our text lists 2 men that failed to go on in their destiny Nadab and Abihu

1. Their character didn't match their calling

a. **Numbers 26:61** And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the Lord.

1. Didn't think God's word was important to obey – perhaps there were some habits they were involved in

2. What you are on the inside is the most important factor in your calling

a. **1 Tim 3** ministry qualifications – most of them are character issues

B. Character is a powerful determining factor in destiny

1. **Lack of character prevents destiny:** God's calling is His intention/want to – not His automatic will do

a. **Matthew 22:14** Many are called, but few are chosen Will not discipline/will not repent/will not be honest

2. **Lack of character can derail destiny:** Nadab/Abihu died! Picture of those who kill their destiny

a. Good character doesn't earn anointing – it protects it; *Protects us from our own sin nature*

### III. THE DISTINCTION OF MINISTRY

A. Our text speaks about the distinct clothing to be worn by the priests

1. **v2** you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

a. The overall idea of these clothes is that they made the wearer distinct: *Stand out from others*

2. If you are called – you can't look like everyone/act like everyone else: There should be a difference

B. 2 distinctions

1. **The distinction of Glory:** **v2** you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory

a. The word is to shine – but has the idea of weight: The idea of having authority

1. When a judge speaks – his word carries weight 2. Parents whose word carries no weight – kids don't listen

2. **The distinction of Beauty:** **v2** you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for beauty

a. Beauty is attractive: There should be an attractiveness about your life

C. These flow out of a seriousness/dedication to the call

1. If you know God has called you – then you dedicate your entire life to your calling

a. **1 Timothy 4:15** Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

1. When you give yourself seriously/completely to God/calling: Everyone will know it!

2. Those who dabble/play at calling will never have this