

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 ¹“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. ²And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. ³So 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. ⁴And 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