

PREPARED FOR MINISTRY #2 "Responsibility of Ministry"

Exodus 28:5-14

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

Exodus 28: 5-14 And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. ⁶ And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work. ⁷ It shall have the two shoulderpieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so it shall be joined together. ⁸ And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen. ⁹ And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: ¹⁰ Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. ¹¹ With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. ¹² And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial. ¹³ And thou shalt make ouches of gold; ¹⁴ And two chains of pure gold at the ends; of wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches.

I. THE MATERIALS OF MINISTRY

A. Our text gives a description of the materials used in ministry

1. **Exodus 28: 5-6** And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. ⁶ And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.

a. These were the best materials they could get: Difficult to make/obtain

B. This shows us 2 things

1. This shows our opinion of ministry - the value we place on it

a. Can't we use some old rags/dirty cloth? No – by using the best we show what we think of ministry

1. What do you want? How much do you want it? What are you willing to do to obtain it? Passion!

2. This shows what God blesses: He blesses our best! Don't have to be most talented – if you give your best

C. These materials were attractive to other people: beautiful/noticeable

1. True in discipleship: If you give your best – other people will know it!

a. Acts 6: You choose 7 men honest/full of HG

II. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTRY

A. **V12** And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

1. Shoulders are a picture of responsibility:

a. Sayings: Shouldering responsibility/carrying the weight on his shoulders

2. What happens to the people is some measure depends on you!

a. God gives us converts/gives us people in ministry – that is a holy calling that has responsibility!

B. It is not acceptable to God if we are not responsible/don't act responsibly with people

1. In natural world: Parents held responsible for children; Captains/ships – Pilots/planes

2. This is also true in the Kingdom of God

a. **Ezekiel 34:2** Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

1. Do you know what's happening with your converts? People in your ministry? Visitors? Hurting/missing people?

C. God blesses men who take responsibility for others

1. **Jeremiah 23:4** And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

a. No accident David chosen as a shepherd: He cared for/defended his flock

III. THE WORK OF MINISTRY

A. **V12** And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

1. The shoulder is a picture of work/labor in the Bible

a. Genesis Rebekah was seen carrying a water pitcher on her shoulder b. Joshua: Men/each tribe were to carry a stone on their shoulders

c. Jesus used a picture of Pharisees – tying heavy burdens on people's shoulders

B. This shows us that ministry is hard work!

1. **Ephesians 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

2. **2 Timothy 4:5** do the work of an evangelist... 3. **1 Thessalonians 2:9** For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

a. Hard work/long hours/inconvenient/stressful/tiring

b. Want to pioneer? You will work harder than you ever have in your whole life! Job/family/ministry

3. Lazy men make lousy Pastors/men of God

a. **Colossians 4:17** say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

4. God is looking for those who can work hard in ministry

a. **Romans 12:11** Do not be lazy but work hard, serving the Lord with all your heart.