



Topic:

BURNING INCENSE

Bible Text: Numbers 16:17

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Prayer

Father in the mighty name of Jesus, we come before your throne this evening, as we are about to start our today's study may you kindly intervene, empower your servant with revelational message today, may you whisper in his ears today, father, may your glory shine this evening in Jesus mighty name I pray, Amen.

Study

I welcome you all once again to tonight's study in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You see brethren, our lives are like mirrors which reflect the image of whomever it is frequently exposed to, we can be exposed to the standard of this world and be a reflection of the devil, and we can also expose our lives to the word of God and look exactly like God. Our bodies are living sacrifices unto God. We all know what a sacrifice is, it is an offering unto God or gods. It can send an aroma or stench to God, it depends on which ever one you decide to offer. That is why tonight's study, would help us to reflect on our lives, through another lens of the Spirit, because It's painful that too often we hide ourselves from ourselves lest the sight of ourselves should sicken ourselves. But if we continue to hide, and not take responsibility for our actions in order to amend our ways, when are we going to be like Christ?

Numbers 16:17 KJV

And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the Lord every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

There are a lot of things to be learned from the beginning of this chapter down to this verse and beyond, please if you are here tonight, I want you to pay close attention to this study. It was Moses that was speaking above, there was a reason why Moses told these 250 leaders of Israel to take their censers with incenses and come before the Lord God of Israel. As I go on, I assume that we all know the kind of lives the people Moses was leading were living. It is that which can frustrate a leader, an unbelieving, faithless, rebellious and disobedient life. Yet, God told him to lead them out of Egypt to the promised land. Now what brought about the incense matter between Moses and the 250 leaders, here is a background. Firstly,

What is a censer?

It is vessel for burning incense; especially a covered incense burner swung on chains in a religious ritual, I know many of us would have watched all these historical films before we gave our lives to Christ. They mostly make use of censers. Secondly,

What is an incense?

It is a substance that is used often in religious ceremonies to produce a strong and **pleasant** smell when it is burned.

With this, we have a better understanding of what Moses told them to carry. These censers are carried with incenses placed in them, and when fire is set on it, then it begins to produce pleasant smell to God, that was how it was then. Although these days those who conjure spirits, those who do magic, sorcerers, among others now make more use of it. But then during the time of Moses, they use it to call God's attention and to draw Him closer. If we read from chapter 1, we would see that Korah, Dathan and Abiram spare headed a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. We would not go deeply into that for tonight, but we would head towards the aspect that concerns tonight's study.

Please listen to this carefully,

Korah was from the descendants of Levi, the descendants of Levi are called the Levites, and the Levites are those whom the Lord has chosen to oversee His tabernacle and things pertaining to it, they were to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people, they were the ones to care for the temple. And because of these and more duties. God ordered them not to do any job. Theirs is to always be in the temple. Now, among the Levites, God then chose a particular family, who are to serve as priests, that is, leaders of the Levites, part of the duties of the priests is to burn incenses, and it is only the High priest that must go to meet the Lord in the Holy of Holies once in a year to offer sacrifices for the sins of the whole nation. And this family appointed by God was the family of Aaron.

That is to say, all priests are Levites, but not all Levites are priests, So God separated the Levites and made them holy for His use. But don't forget that we are made to know that Korah was a Levite but not from the family of Aaron, so he was not entitled to be a priest. And because of this, he got **jealous** and gathered 250 leaders of Israel including Dathan and Abiram who were from the tribe of Reuben. To rebel against Moses and Aaron challenging their authority over them. Numbers 16:3 KJV **And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord ?**

In other words, they said Moses and Aaron, "You've overstepped yourself, that is you have passed your boundaries. This entire community is holy, we are all holy and God is in our midst. So why do you act like you're the boss, or like you're running the whole show?" Hmm, what an insult!

Is someone following me please.. Kai!!!

Please I would like everyone to read the whole chapter, I won't be able to say all what happened there. But to be candid, these people passed their boundaries and spoke against the men God has placed over them, because of jealousy and pride. It even got to the extent that Moses called some of them, Dathan and Abiram to come before him, and they told him point blank that **they will not come** Numbers 16:12 **And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and they said, We will not come up.**

Hmm, brethren, whenever jealousy and pride takes over a man, conspiracy, bitterness and disobedience will not be far fetched. This is exactly how it is these days too, many people are not afraid to speak against God's true servants, they are rebellious, disobedient, full of pride, and strong headed. Do these men still need a soothsayer to tell them Moses and Aaron were chosen by God, after all what God did through them to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, how He sent plagues to the Egyptians, how He parted the red sea, how He removed water from the rock, and how He also killed 23,000 people who complained against Him. Yet they said Moses and Aaron were behaving **like** boss, which means that they are not their leaders and are not recognized by them. Kai!!!! They started comparing themselves with Moses and Aaron because God was using some of them. Listen, there are some people we are not to compare ourselves with at all, I want us to know that grace differs, if you doubt it ask Esau. Right from the womb, before they were born at all, God said " **...Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.**" Romans 9:13

Some people believe that because God is using them to cure headache then they begin to despise God's servants, it is a dangerous thing, let's go further a little bit then we call it a day for tonight. Then Moses told them that, since you people now count yourselves holy, it's okay, you have also placed yourselves in the same position with those whom God has chosen to be leaders over you. No problem, you all should bring your censers and incenses then and come and burn it before the Lord, and Aaron would also bring his own, then we would see whom God has **chosen**. And this is what brings us back to our

bible text Numbers 16:17 KJV **And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the Lord every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.** And this 250 Kai!!!!... I wish to use an adjective for them, it is clearly seen that they behaved foolishly before God. They knew fully well, that it was only the priest that was to burn incense before God, yet they took their censers and incenses before God, just because of their pride and their God is using us too attitude.

That is how it is with some of us too, we want to show, we want people to see that we are there too and that God is using us. And all these we are doing to our own detriments. Well, they wanted to see whom God truly chose, just because they did not have sense, Proverbs 15:21 **Foolishness brings joy to those who have no sense; a sensible person stays on the right path.** they refused to stay on the right path of being contented with whatever thing they had and position they occupied. Their foolishness got God annoyed to the point that He wanted to consume the whole Israelites. After Moses and Aaron pleaded, Korah, Dathan and Abiram were isolated, then we got to know what happened to them in Numbers 16:31 **"And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:"**

The Lord did not spare the 250 censer carriers either. [35] **And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.** They were all consumed, because they passed their boundaries and Aaron remained. Brethren, the truth is that many of us are burning strange incense to God with the censer of our lives. These days, many of us go to the presence of God just the way the 250 leaders presented themselves to God with uncleanness and filthiness. Perhaps we have been warned about our ways, about our conducts, yet we refused to change, I tell you tonight that you are doing a dangerous thing, thank God for the grace He offered us through Christ Jesus which is why many do not care to amend their ways, they are very comfortable in burning the incense of immortality, disobedience, pride, hatred, jealousy and the likes before God.

Adam and Eve hid themselves when they found out that they were naked, and in other not to burn strange incense to God with their bodies, they fled from the face of the Lord, but reverse is the case these days, now, we go and present our naked bodies to God in tight fitted clothes, transparent, body revealing clothes, worldly hairstyles, artificial things hanged on our bodies among others and we are not even afraid not to be consumed by Him. What those 250 leaders did which made them face the wrath of God is far better and lesser compared to what we are doing these days. Please check your life daily, and keep asking yourself that "if my life was to be an incense placed in a censer before God, what kind of smell will come out of it?" will it be a stench or an aroma?

In conclusion,

Don't be like those who behaved foolishly before God, remember that though the effects of it may not be immediate but the result of it will surely come, and it's with serious and eternal regrets.

This is where I would stop for tonight.

Contribution

Good evening Beloved brothers and sisters. Though am new on this platform, I want to sincerely appreciate you sir for pointing this out. Secondly, if we truly surrender to the Holy Spirit, there will be no room for comparison among us. 2 Corinthians 10:12 **For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.** If we understand that we are one body on Christ and we all are working together as one body with different abilities. There is no room for competition and comparing. the "men of God" we have in our countries, just imagine if they all can come together under one roof and fellowship together as one body, Nothing can stand against the church. It therefore means, if we find ourselves being jealous, envy, comparing and competing with others (works of the flesh Gal 5:19-22) then something is totally wrong with our believe. This also means we are not walking in love. Finally I will leave us with this scripture to meditate on. 1 corinthians 12:12-31 - *Brother Usulogbo Sunday*

Dear Reader,

What kind of incense has your life been burning to God, is it palatable? If not, this is the time you must be genuinely saved. If there is anyway you have gone away from Christ due to the cares of this world, or you have never for once accepted Christ into your life, this is the right time to do so, do not postpone, come to Jesus now. If you want to give your life to Christ please place your right hand on your chest and pray this prayer by believing it in your heart and confessing it with your mouth.

Say,

Lord Jesus Christ, I accept you as my personal Lord and Savior, I believe that you died and rose up on the third day so that I can be free from death and sin, have mercy on me and forgive me of all my sins, I confess your Lordship over my life, and renounce the works of the devil over me, accept me as your child and help me to always walk in accordance to your will and purpose. Thank you Jesus for saving me. Amen!

If you said the above prayer sincerely, I congratulate you and the angels in heaven are rejoicing over you currently, you have taken the best decision any man on earth would ever take, please contact us, we can't wait to have a word with you.

Congratulations, once again dear saint.

Closing Prayer

Dear Father of light, I pray that as we have learnt your words tonight, you shall bring us to knowledge and full understanding of it. Our lives shall continually burn sweet incense to you in Jesus name. Amen

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