

Study Guide
Numbers 18-19
Value Your Access to God

1. Read Numbers 18:1-7. Discuss the value of what the priests did to give people access to God.

- a. Bear iniquity. (v. 1-2)
- b. Keep guard. (v. 3-5)
- c. As a gift. (v. 6-7)

2. Read the following passages and discuss the value of what Jesus has done to give us direct access to God.

- a. Bear iniquity. Hebrews 10:4-5; 1 Peter 2:4
- b. Keep guard. 1 Peter 1:5
- c. As a gift. Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 9:15

Share a personal illustration of why it's so valuable to for you to have access to God.

3. Read Numbers 18:8. Israel was to give a tithe as a contribution for being given access to God. Discuss the reasons they were told to give.

- a. An Expression of Value- "...bear iniquity..." (Nu. 18:1); "...keep guard..." (Nu. 18:3) "...lest they bear sin and die." (Nu. 18:22).
- b. An Expression of Joy- "I give you their priesthood as a gift..." (Nu. 18:6-7)
- c. An Expression of Faith- "I am your portion and your inheritance..." (Nu. 18:20b)

How does that relate to the reason why we give today? Discuss.

4. Read Numbers 19:1-6 & 9. The red heifer involved a way for the Jews to exercise ceremonial cleansing. Notice in verse 9 that it was not just for physical cleansing, but for purification from sin! Now read Hebrews 9:13-14. Notice the connection between the red heifer and Jesus.

Sin is pervasive. It follows us like a shadow. We need regular cleansing. Read 1 John 1:7-9 and discuss the sacred rhythm of getting specific with God and others about our short-comings. How can this contribute to our healing? (See also James 5:16).

Conclusion

It's all about access into a close, personal relationship with Jesus. Take a few minutes in silence to engage with Him and express how valuable it is to you that you can have access to Him.

Numbers 18-19

Numbers 17:13

"Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the Lord, shall die. Are we all to perish?"

Big Idea: Value Your Access to God.

I. The Privilege of Access (Numbers 18:1-7)

A. Bear Iniquity (v.1-2)

So the Lord said to Aaron, "You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood. ²And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony."

Hebrews 10:4-5

"⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me...'"

Isaiah 53:5

"He was crushed for our iniquities..."

1 Peter 2:24

"And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross."

B. Keep Guard (v. 3-5)

³They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die. ⁴They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you. ⁵And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel.

1 Peter 1:5

"...who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Hebrews 10:19

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is through His flesh."

C. A Gift (v. 6-7)

⁶And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the Lord, to do the service of the tent of meeting. ⁷And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

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Ephesians 2:8-9- "For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God..."

2 Corinthians 9:15- "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift."

Big Idea: Value Your Access to God.

T.S.- Bear iniquity, keep guard...a gift...our response...

II. Contributions (Numbers 18:8-32)

⁸ Then the Lord spoke to Aaron, "Behold, I have given you charge of the contributions made to me, all the consecrated things of the people of Israel. I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual due.

A. An Expression of Value

"...bear iniquity..." (Nu. 18:1)

"...keep guard..." (Nu. 18:3)

"...lest they bear sin and die." (Nu. 18:22)

"...covenant of salt..." (Nu. 18:19b)

B. An Expression of Joy

"I give you their priesthood as a gift..." (Nu. 18:6-7)

C. An Expression of Faith

"I am your portion and your inheritance..." (Nu. 18:20b)

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III. Cleansing (Numbers 19:1-22)

Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, ... it shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered ... take some of its blood ... and sprinkle ... toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times...⁶ And the priest shall take cedarwood and hyssop and scarlet yarn, and throw them into the fire burning the heifer...gather up the ashes of the heifer ...

Ceremonial Cleansing (Leviticus 11-15)

Eating Land Animals, seafood, birds, insects, touching carcasses, swarming things, polluted clean animals, purification after childbirth, leprosy, house cleaning, bodily discharges...

Numbers 19:9b "They are to be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin."

Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of

Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 John 1:7-9

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ... ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

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