**The God Who Draws Near**

Exodus 29:22-46

**Good Morning Beloved,**

* A young lady and a young man greatly enjoy each other’s company.
  + Days… weeks… and even years are spent in laughter… adventures… and mundane moments of friendship.
    - The young lady’s older brother asks her directly… “has he ever mentioned marriage?”
      * Even though her hopes and heart’s desire was that they would eventually marry… she answered her brother truthfully and said… “No, he never has directly.”
        + With a pointed can yet kind candor, her brother replied… “He never will.”
    - The young man’s parents had been clear that he was marry from a wealthy family.
      * Soon there was a knock on the door… there stood the young man and his fiancée from a wealthy family.
* Though she was pleasant in their conversations… the young woman was crushed.
  + Later she retired to her room in great sadness.
    - Her father gently knocked… then entered her room…
      * What he conveyed to his precious daughter is what Moses sought to convey to the nation of Israel in Exodus 29.
        + It is what our Father will teach us today as we wait upon his Word.

**The Reading of God’s Word** – Exodus 29:22-46 (P. 70 in the Pew Bible)

*22 “You shall also take the fat from the ram and the fat tail and the fat that covers the entrails, and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them, and the right thigh (for it is a ram of ordination), 23 and one loaf of bread and one cake of bread made with oil, and one wafer out of the basket of unleavened bread that is before the Lord. 24 You shall put all these on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons, and wave them for a wave offering before the Lord. 25 Then you shall take them from their hands and burn them on the altar on top of the burnt offering, as a pleasing aroma before the Lord. It is a food offering to the Lord.*

*26 “You shall take the breast of the ram of Aaron's ordination and wave it for a wave offering before the Lord, and it shall be your portion. 27 And you shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering that is waved and the thigh of the priests' portion that is contributed from the ram of ordination, from what was Aaron's and his sons'. 28 It shall be for Aaron and his sons as a perpetual due from the people of Israel, for it is a contribution. It shall be a contribution from the people of Israel from their peace offerings, their contribution to the Lord.*

*29 “The holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him; they shall be anointed in them and ordained in them. 30 The son who succeeds him as priest, who comes into the tent of meeting to minister in the Holy Place, shall wear them seven days.*

*31 “You shall take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place. 32 And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram and the bread that is in the basket in the entrance of the tent of meeting. 33 They shall eat those things with which atonement was made at their ordination and consecration, but an outsider shall not eat of them, because they are holy. 34 And if any of the flesh for the ordination or of the bread remain until the morning, then you shall burn the remainder with fire. It shall not be eaten, because it is holy.*

*35 “Thus you shall do to Aaron and to his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Through seven days shall you ordain them, 36 and every day you shall offer a bull as a sin offering for atonement. Also you shall purify the altar, when you make atonement for it, and shall anoint it to consecrate it. 37 Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it, and the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar shall become holy.*

*38 “Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old day by day regularly. 39 One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. 40 And with the first lamb a tenth measure of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering. 41 The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it a grain offering and its drink offering, as in the morning, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the Lord. 42 It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.*

**The Preaching of God’s Word**

1. The Pleasing Aroma (vs. 22-28)
   1. The context of our passage is still the ordination of Aaron as a priest.
      1. We have heard about the details of the Tabernacle (where the priest is to serve) and the garments (what the priest is to wear).
         1. Now we hear how the ordination of the priest teaches us about the God who draws near.
      2. When we read about the wave offering it is teaching us key thoughts about who God is.
         1. When we read “the fat tail” (vs. 22) we should hear “filet mignon”.
            1. This part of the ram of ordination is a delicacy.
         2. And the actions associated with God are significant.
            1. The “wave offering” is not our usually social greeting of side-to-side…

It is a forward and backward motion.

As Mackay notes, “… indicating that it was presented to the LORD as his and then symbolically received back from him.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + 1. Then Aaron and His sons kept the food and enjoyed it (vs. 27).
       1. This action and worship was to be done forever (Lev. 7:31-34) as a tangible “pleasing aroma” (vs. 25).
  1. POINT: The God who draws near to His people provides GOOD THINGS (2 Peter 1:3).
     1. *2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,*
        1. APPLICATION #1 - BECAUSE God draws near – you have a new purpose #1 – WORK
           1. Whatever happens in Tuesday’s election… whatever happens in health care… whatever happens in your relationships…

Your God will grant you the ability to present a pleasing aroma as he provides for your days.

* 1. TRANSITION: This is confidence is based on…

1. The Perpetual Arrangement (vs. 29-34)
   1. The designer garments that features 12 precious gems, intricately woven threads of gold, and materials bound together by skilled craftsmen… these “brand-new robes” become “hand-me-downs” (credit to Philip Graham Ryken).[[2]](#footnote-2)
      1. While Aaron stands in for the people today as their representative before God and represents God to the people… he is still born of woman and flies away.
         1. Thus, the same setting apart ceremony for Aaron must be performed for his sons… as the priesthood will continue throughout every generation in a perpetual arrangement (vs. 29-30).
            1. With each succeeding priest, the covenant fellowship meal is to be observed and celebrated with remembrance of when the Elders and Moses feasted with God on the Mountain (Ex. 24).
      2. In the midst of this arrangement… there is a very clear division…
         1. There are the people made “holy” (vs. 33, 34)… AND there are the “outsiders” (vs. 33).
   2. POINT: The God who draws near to His people makes them GODLY (2 Peter 1:4).
      1. *2 Peter1:4 - by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*
         1. APPLICATION #2 - BECAUSE God draws near – you have a new purpose #2 – WITNESS
            1. Do you know the escape from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire?

Do you know the fullness of God’s fellowship?

Do you know the forgiveness of sins?

Do you know the freedom of God’s love?

Do you know the power of God’s grace?

Do you know the fellowship of the Holy Spirit?

Do you know the promise of eternal life?

* + 1. Christians, our answer to all those questions is “YES” for all the promises of God are realized in Jesus Christ our Lord.
       1. For Christ is the one who has established forever more a BETTER perpetual arrangement.
          1. Hebrews 10:11- *And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*

This is the perpetual arrangement in our passage in Exodus… It is established… yet NEVER takes away sins…

But it always pointed to a better arrangement…

* + - * 1. Hebrews 10:12-14 - *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*
    1. Christian, here is the message we are share in witnessing (from Ryken)[[3]](#footnote-3) in light of the passage in Exodus pointing to the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ
       1. Aaron’s washing points to our regeneration and baptism in the Holy Spirit.
       2. Aaron’s robing points to the holiness that is ours in Christ Jesus.
       3. Aaron’s sprinkling points to our consecration through the cross.
       4. Aaron’s feasting points to our fellowship with the Triune God at the Lord’s Supper.
    2. The perpetual work to secure your life has been accomplished by the God who draws near… now we plead with men to
       1. James 4:8 - *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
    3. Therefore, we give way to working in the name of our Lord (Col. 3:23) and to witnessing to persuade others in the fear of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:11).
  1. For we are a people who live in…

1. The Presence of the Almighty (vs. 35-46)
   1. Illustration: Have you ever walked into a room and wondered… “why did I walk in this room? What was I supposed to get?”
      1. NOW the LORD of All CREATION reminds his people of WHY everything has happened in the Book of Exodus.
         1. Exodus 6:7 - *I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*
         2. Exodus 7:5 - *The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."*
         3. Exodus 14:4 - *And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.*
      2. In the ordination of priests, the details of ceremonies, the furniture of the Tabernacle we are taught the point of the EXODUS…
         1. Exodus 29:45-46 - *I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.*
   2. POINT: The God who draws near shows HIS GLORY (vs. 43)
      1. 2 Peter 1:2 - *May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*
         1. APPLICATION #3 - BECAUSE God draws near – you have a new purpose #3 – WORSHIP.
2. Conclusion
   1. The young lady sits on her bed… fighting back tears… her heart grieves as her emotions swirl.
      1. She longs to draw away from everything…
         1. Yet her dad knowns on the door and draws near.
      2. Her father comes into the room.
         1. What will he say…
            1. Would he distract her… “There are other fish in the sea.”
            2. Would he attack him… “If he’d reject you… he is a fool.”
      3. Instead, he sat beside his daughter and with a combination of gentleness and candor said…
         1. “My dear child, God loves this young man with a greater compassion, wisdom, and depth than we have for him. However great your love is for him… God loves him more.
         2. We must pray for God to give us HIS love for this young man.”
   2. The father was directing his daughter to the God who draws near in love.
      1. The only way that man and his daughter could persevere in loving the young man is based on one things…
         1. *Eph. 3:14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
   3. No where is this more clearly seen and celebrated by faith than at the Table of our Lord… It is to this means of grace that we now come.

**Prayer**

*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* (Rev. 1:5-6).

**Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26**

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

1. MacKay, *Exodus*, 510 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ryken, *Exodus*, 866 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ryken, *Exodus*, 867 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)