



Set Apart

January 21, 2023 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever been at a gathering where you couldn't relate to anyone? How did you respond?

READ: Leviticus 16:1-5, 10:1-3, 16:20-22; Romans 3:23

OBSERVE: God's holiness is deadly to sinful humanity.

- We often make three mistakes when it comes to God's holiness: we grievously underestimate God's holiness, we define worship on our own terms and not God's terms, and we underestimate our own sin. God is holy, without error and without equal. He is a being that is perfectly pure and moral, without sin. If we don't come to God or approach Him the way he wants, there are dire consequences.
- In God's love, He desired a way to enable fallen people to approach Him in relationship. In the Old Testament, God instituted ritual cleansings, practices, and sacrifices to set the people of Israel apart as holy and able to approach Him. However, these never removed sin and only gave the people of Israel limited access to a relationship with a holy God.
- These Old Testament institutions pointed to needing something better that is only found in Jesus. Jesus is our perfect high priest who intercedes for us at the righthand of the Father. Because He was sinless, His blood was the perfect sin offering. Jesus is the perfect scapegoat who once and for all bore our sin and death on Himself. It is through Jesus that we are reconciled back to a holy and perfect God, because through Jesus we are holy and receive the righteousness of God.

REFLECT:

- When you hear the word "holy," what comes to mind? How would you describe God's holiness?
- How do you view worship? What does the Bible say about how we are to approach God in worship and prayer?

TAKING ACTION:

- What area of your life (family, relationships, work, etc.) can you identify where you are not living set apart (holy)?
- God calls His people to live in a holy community. How can you grow in relationship with God's people in the church (Life Group, class, serving, etc.)?

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, You are holy and You have called me to be holy just as You are. Thank You, Jesus, it is because of Your sacrifice I am reconciled to the Father and am called holy. You have called me to live a life set apart unto You. Holy Spirit empower me to live holy and obey You. Give me faith to hear and obey Your voice as you call me to holiness. Amen.