



Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 5, 2017

Siri, What's My Next Appointment?

Scripture: **Exodus 19**

Exodus 19:10 ***And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes¹¹ and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.***

Sanctification vs Consecration

God commands Moses to let the people consecrate themselves to Him. What is Sanctification?

Sanctification means purification; the achievement of God's purpose in our lives (Christlikeness) A work of the Holy Spirit, sanctification is achieved only by grace, but is facilitated through our faith.

What is Consecration? This is the setting apart for God's purpose.

Consecration is our response to the Sanctification work of the Holy Spirit.

Pretend that you've been assigned by to give a presentation to your bosses. The night before, you've probably made sure that you are prepared, from finalizing your slideshow to rehearsing your monologue. After all, you're about to meet with an important person. If we make sure that we're ready when we are about to meet with someone of higher authority, what more when we have an appointment set with the highest authority—God?

In Exodus 19, the Israelites, months after leaving Egypt, have set up camp in the wilderness of Sinai. There, Moses heard from the Lord, who intended to come down from Mount Sinai and meet with the people. However, before He would do so, the Israelites had to consecrate themselves and wash their garments. They were also not allowed to have sexual relations prior to meeting the Lord.

It was necessary for the Israelites to prepare themselves in such a way before meeting with God, because holiness (God) and sin (man) cannot mix. The people had to do everything they could at that time to be as “clean” as possible before meeting Him.

Similar to how limited the Israelites' efforts were in being clean before the Lord, our own actions cannot completely help us us reach God's standard of holiness; we will always fall short. However, the Lord in the New Testament sent Jesus Christ to bridge the gap between his holiness and our sinfulness. Because of His Son, we are able to approach Him without fear now. Our part now is to respond to what Jesus did on the cross by accepting Him into our lives as Lord and Savior, and living a life of Christlikeness.

Why do we need to be consecrated?

1. So we can walk in the Lord's way
2. So that we can grow
3. So that God can work in us
4. To enjoy the riches of God's salvation

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:1, ***I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.*** As we have been set apart for God's purpose, we are supposed to do things differently. Romans 12:1-2 says, ***I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.***

For all of us, it is not a question of *if* we will meet God, but *when* we will meet Him. Are we ready? 1 Peter 2:9 says, ***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*** As children of God, we are called priests in the sense that we can commune directly with God; because of Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of having fellowship with Him. As His children, we are also represent men to God, meaning that we are responsible for witnessing to those that do not know Him.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Points to reflect on:

1. Do I realize that God has declared me to be holy and set apart?
2. Do I see myself practicing holiness more and more in my life each day?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.