

## Are you ready to be used of the LORD?

2 Chronicles 29-30

Definitions:

*Sanctify* – to cleanse, purify, make holy; to separate, be set apart unto God

Context:

Hezekiah, king of Judah does that which is right in the sight of the LORD. In the first year of his reign and in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. He gathers the priests and Levites and speaks to them.

### **First Step: Sanctification and Cleansing**

29:5 Sanctify **now** yourselves *and* sanctify the house of the LORD

Notice we need to sanctify ourselves, not tomorrow, not before we start to preach, not before we go out to witness, but **NOW!** We always need to be clean. If we are not clean we ought to get clean right away. We need to be clean, Amen? Does not the LORD say, be ye holy, for I am holy (1 Peter 1:16, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)? Holiness requires separation from sin and the world, it requires us to set apart ourselves unto God, being in total submission and obedience to the will of the Father.

Sanctification requires us to do more than just talk, it requires us to act. Notice in the verse, they were told to “carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.” That means they needed to purposefully and willingly get rid of what shouldn’t of been there in the first place. Filthiness in your Bible refers to sin (Ezra 6:21, 9:11, Proverbs 30:12, James 1:21, Job 15:16, Isaiah 64:6).

Sanctification requires repentance. There is a difference between sorrow and repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). When most people get caught, they are sorry for what they did, but not all are repentant. Repentance means to turn from your current direction back towards God. True repentance is coupled with fruits and works (Luke 3:7-14, Acts 26:16-20). It is not enough to confess your sin and say God I’m sorry, forgive me. That is necessary but you also need to do something about it and that is to change your ways! The Ephesians believers did (Acts 19:17-20). They burned their filthiness in the fire. You remember those great OT saints: what did they do? They destroyed the groves and images and burned them with fire (Deuteronomy 7:5, 2 Kings 18:1-5). They actually did something about their sin and the sins of their fathers. Remember that serpent (sin as a serpent) that bit Paul: what did he do? He just calmly shook it off in the fire.

Praise the LORD! Just cast off the filthiness and sin and weights into the fire. That Bible says our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). You get closer to Jesus, the bad stuff will be burnt up and the good stuff will remain and be refined (Proverbs 25:4)! The secret to victory over sin is not a list of do’s and don’ts; it is getting closer to Jesus Christ and fellowshiping with him that helps you overcome sin.

The Bible says we are the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 5:13-20) and that because he dwells in us, our body is holy. What does our text say? Carry out the filthiness from the holy place. We need to stop sinning. See Romans 6:1, 6-7, 12-23.

When Jesus came to the Temple (Mark 11:15-17), he drove out the money changers, those that bought and sold therein, and overthrew the seats of them that sold doves to get rid of the sin there. What is this a picture of? It's a picture of a Christian, whose body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, selling out to anybody and anything that comes on by. Hey man, you have no right to buy or sell anything anymore, God purchased you with his own blood! Notice they were selling doves in the Temple. Some Christians are selling out and the Dove, the Holy Ghost is being grieved, and vexed, and quenched by the sins, foolishness, and compromising of his wife!

We have made this house of prayer (our bodies) a den of thieves! How so? Because we are buying and selling and trading what belongs to God when we have no right to. We are his! He purchased us with his own blood! When our members are not yielded unto him, we are robbing and stealing from God! Our bodies were meant to be a house of prayer. A place of fellowship and communion with God, but this cannot occur when iniquity abounds (Psalm 66:18).

You can expect the Holy One to reprove you until the sin has been driven out from your members. What did the LORD say? You have made this a den of thieves. Listen up Christian, you are stealing from God (ye are bought with a price) whenever you refuse to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1-2).

### **Step 2: Recognizing your calling and performing it**

29:11 The LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

Bless God we are chosen in him (Ephesians 1:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13) and we are to stand before him. We ought to "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus ye soldiers of the cross!" (2 Timothy 2:4) We ought to stand against Pharaoh like Moses did. We ought to stand up against the workers of iniquity (Psalm 94:16). We ought to stand fast in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13), unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). We ought to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1); we ought to stand against the wiles of the devil by putting on the whole armor of God, and having done all to stand (Ephesians 6:11-13). We ought to stand perfect and complete in the will of God (Colossians 4:12).

We ought to serve the LORD with all our might and heart and soul, and minister to him for once, amen? We ought to offer up the burnt incense of sweet smelling prayers for the saints of God.

We need to do what God commands us to do.

### **Step Three: Singing to and Praising the LORD**

29:25-27 The Levites gather together in the house of the LORD with instruments and sang the songs of the LORD.

The LORD loves to hear the songs of Zion. He likes it when his children are happy. We ought to sing unto the LORD with grace and joy and gladness and thanksgiving. We ought to sing loud and proud to his holy name. The Bible says to give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name and to worship him in the beauties of holiness (Psalm 29:2).

There is something about singing to Jesus that the LORD loves and that helps you in return. Now isn't that something? It drives away the evil spirits (1 Samuel 16:14-23). Hallelujah!

### **Step Four: Worship the LORD**

29:28-30 All the congregation worshipped and bowed themselves

That word worship literally means to bow down and prostrate yourself before God with you face forwards to the ground. Get down at Jesus' feet. You are not his equal, amen? Get down low as you can go and sit at Jesus' feet like Mary and don't be like Martha. Notice Mary and the LORD had a sweet time together.

Listen, you may as well start bowing now and falling on your face now because up in glory that is what goes on. They fall on their face before God Almighty and praise his name and ascribe greatness to our God. I'm telling you, get on your face before God and you don't always have to talk to him, sometimes it is just good to lay before the Lord in silence and be still.

I'm telling you, we ought to worship the LORD how he says to worship and that definitely includes in both testaments falling down before the LORD. There is something about this that helps you out in the sanctification process.

### **NOW ARE YE CONSECRATED**

29:31 Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD.

After doing these four steps, you are now consecrated unto the LORD and you can now bring those spiritual sacrifices and offer them unto the LORD: bring those thank offerings and free will offerings and he will now receive them at your hand. Amen!

29:35 Now the service of the house of the LORD (our body) is set in order.

Praise the LORD! Now we can serve the LORD in order and not out of disorder! We are now able and fit to preach the word of the LORD! Look at the next chapter and first verse!

30:1 Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah letters that said, COME to the house of the LORD! Isn't that we are essentially saying to the people? Come to Jesus! Come to Jesus! Amen!

\*Notice in 30:3 that you cannot partially do this sanctification process and expect to be sanctified sufficiently. This is not acceptable to God and we would just be wasting our time. We need to wholly do what God said to do in order to be consecrated unto the LORD.

30:5 Notice the reemergence of the desire to do what that book says! When you are right in the sight of the LORD you want to do things “as it is written.”

30:6-11 Public proclamations to all the land

Notice they went with some letters, some writings through out the land to preach the king’s commandment (GLORY! – “But God commandeth all men everywhere to repent...”). It is kind of like those princes (didn’t he make us kings and priests unto our God in Revelation 1:6?) in the days of Jehoshaphat that were commanded by their king to teach IN THE CITIES OF JUDAH. They brought with them the book of the law of the LORD and went throughout the cities and taught the people (GLORY!) (2 Chronicles 17:5-9)! They walked up and down the cities of Judah saying, “Thus saith the LORD of hosts!”

What was the message?

30:6-9 Turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and he will return unto you. Don’t be like your fathers, or your brethren, which sin against God; don’t be stiffnecked – but yield yourselves unto the LORD and enter into his sanctuary and serve the LORD that his wrath may be turned away from you.

We need to preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 15) and speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). We need to lift up Jesus in our preaching that men might be drawn unto him. Let us present him as altogether lovely and holy!

The Response

30:10-11 Some laughed them to scorn and mocked, some humbled themselves and came!

### **Conclusion**

Are you ready to be used of the LORD? Have you taken the necessary steps to consecrate yourself to the LORD? Are you fit for the masters use?

2 Corinthians 7:1