

A T O N E D

**LEV. 10:1-3; 16:1-2; MK 11:15-19**

CONFRONTING DISORDER

MARCH 29, 2026

OPENING**Ice Breaker - 5 minutes**

Choose one:

- Have you ever become so familiar with something that you started to take it for granted?
- When you think of God, do you tend to think more about His closeness or His holiness?

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus entering Jerusalem—but what follows is confrontation. This message warns us about a subtle but serious danger: becoming too familiar with God.

Read the Text Together - Leviticus 10:1-3; 16:1-2; Mark 11:15-19

Listen for: how people approach God, how God responds, what Jesus confronts

SUMMARY

Tom highlighted a central warning:

An attitude of familiarity with God is dangerous for us and destructive for others.

In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu approach God on their own terms rather than according to God's command — and they are destroyed. Their mistake was not ignorance, but presumption. They treated a holy God as common.

Leviticus 16 reinforces this: God graciously provides access into his holy presence, but it must happen in the way God directs.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus confronts similar disorder in the temple. The religious leaders had turned a place meant for prayer into a place of self-interest and control. Their familiarity with God led them to reshape worship for their own advantage — crowding out others and distorting God's purposes.

The warning is clear: When we become casual with God, we begin to center ourselves instead of Him—and that harms both our worship and others.



DISCUSSION

Observation Questions

- What did Nadab and Abihu do wrong in Leviticus 10? What explanation does Moses give in verse 3?
- What restriction does God give in Leviticus 16:1-2 about entering His presence?
- What actions does Jesus take in the temple in Mark 11? What does Jesus say the temple was meant to be?

Interpretation & Theological Reflection

- What does this passage teach us about God's holiness?
- Why is approaching God "on our own terms" such a serious issue?
- How does familiarity with God subtly lead to pride or presumption?
- In what ways were the religious leaders misusing the temple—and why did Jesus respond so strongly?

Application Questions

- Where might you be treating God casually or taking His grace for granted?
- In what ways do you approach worship with the mindset of being the "audience" rather than the participant coming to honor God?
- Are there ways you expect grace for yourself but struggle to extend it to others?
- In what ways are you tempted to see yourself in the cleansing of the temple as Jesus, rather than the people he rebukes for familiarity and self-centeredness?
- What would it look like this week to approach God with greater reverence and humility?

Closing Prayer

- Praise God for His holiness, glory, grace, and desire for us to know him.
- Confess attitudes of self-centeredness, presumption, or spiritual complacency.
- Thank Jesus for making a way to approach God rightly.
- Thank God that His grace invites us near, even as He remains holy.



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.



- Ask God to deepen your reverence and awe in worship.
- Pray for a heart that obeys rather than improvises.
- Ask God to help you reflect His character in how you treat others.

Optional Take-Home Reflection

- What is one practical way you can guard against becoming “too familiar” with God this week?



**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Lev. 19: 11-19; 17:11