

holy from the unholy in food, animals, family relations, behaviour and worship. Moses first experiences the holy at the burning bush (Ex 3:5). This is the first time the word 'holy' is used in scripture. The children of Israel are terrified by the burning Mount Sinai (Ex 20:18-21). God is teaching His people that they must distinguish between holy and unholy and between clean and unclean (Lev 10:10). Our society does not use these distinctions. Nothing is ceremonially unclean, only infected or 'yucky'. There is no moral 'Do not touch'. Rather boundaries are to be broken and moral restrictions are to be transgressed or 'liberated': 'anything goes'. The sense of holiness implies a containment of Self, a fear of God and of divine retribution with boundaries that define character and limit behaviour. For the rogue Self, these restrictions can be immensely irritating. People without a consistent moral view, to which they subject their Self, will usually be Self accommodating and mutually Self tolerating: 'you do your thing and I do my thing'. One can sometimes find a peculiar rage when Self-serving moralities confront one another or are confronted (for instance, gay rage at 'homophobia'). Freedom is seen to be 'without boundaries'. This is freedom 'from' restraint rather than freedom 'to' restrain. The so-called 'liberated' person goes anywhere and does anything. Any form of moral restraint is seen as 'oppression'. But the righteous trust their souls to a Faithful Creator (1Pet 4:19) and place themselves under the constraint of God in Christ. This is a place of deep moral and spirit safety. The liberated do not recognise moral danger and the effect (possession) of invading spirits. This is where teaching on spirit territory is relevant (Mtt 12:43-45). Our spirit can be viewed as a territory that can be occupied by an invading hostile and possessive 'householder'. We lose possession of our own spirit space. Our soul is directed by forces out of our control. Our behaviour is erratic and our desires are confused. Our affections are changeable and our vows are broken. We cannot sustain 'a long obedience in the same direction' (Nietzsche, Peterson).

The Tabernacle - the Architecture of Holiness (Ex 35:10-19)

1. The Tent with its hangings, clasps, boards, bars
2. The Ark with its poles (never removed, Ex 25:15) and its contents of tablets of the 10 Commandments (the Testimony).
3. The Mercy seat on top of the ark with 2 cherubim facing each other. God spoke with Moses between the cherubim (Ex 25:22).
4. The Veil closing off the Holy of Holies (Ex 26:33).
5. The Table with poles for 12 loaves of showbread and utensils.
6. The Lampstand of 7 lights (menorah) (Rev 2:5).
7. The Incense altar with its poles and anointing oil.
8. The Laver for washing.
9. The Altar of burnt offering with its poles.
10. The Garments for ministry.

This is the pattern established in the OT. It takes on a new significance for Christians as explained in Heb 9 where the earthly sanctuary is described as a copy of the heavenly sanctuary.

Self Denial: the Fact

One of the tasks of holiness is to cultivate self control which leads to the possibility and necessity of self denial. The problem for the Christian is the residual power of the Self. The conflict is between the Self that I have and the God who I worship. God is not here to support Self; Self is here to serve God. But we persist in Self serving behaviour; it is natural, it is survival, it is looking after our Selves. The core problem of the uncontrolled and worshipped Self is met by the Christian

requirement of Self Denial. We are not told to kill ourselves (which suicide bombers do for a paradise reward), anaesthetise ourselves, confiscate ourselves or ridicule ourselves. We are told to Deny Our Selves. This accepts the reality and significance of the Self but confronts its power in our life. We often get rid of something by ridiculing its importance and demeaning its significance. Racial hatred denies that a certain race is human: Nazis regarded Jews as vermin; Communists regarded the wealthy as enemies of the people; the civilised have regarded the uncivilised as a lesser breed. We can demean Self as 'sinner'. The answer to Self is not to demean its significance but to confront its power by denial and renunciation. This is much more difficult.

Jesus on Self Denial

I will give 4 verses on Self Denial and 4 verses on Attachments.

Self Denial

Mtt 16:24 If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.

Mk 8:34 Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. :35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. :36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul (loses the capacity to enjoy it). :37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (How do you buy back your soul (life) once you have sold it?). :38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when he comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Luke 9:23 If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me.

John 12:24-26 Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains alone; but if it dies it produces much fruit. :25 He who loves his life will lose it and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. :26 If anyone serves Me let him follow Me; and where I am there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.

Attachments

Mtt 10:37-39 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me. :38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. :39 He who finds his life will lose it and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Luke 14: 26-27,33 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters and his own life (soul, psyche) cannot be My disciple. :27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. :33 whoever of you does not forsake all his possessions cannot be My disciple.

[This word **hate** in Lk 14:26 is the hardest word in the Bible. Eph 5:25 says we are to love our wife and Ex 20:12 says that we are to honour our parents. I do not want to change what the scripture says, but 'hate' must mean to be able to separate your Self from others so that commitment to them does not compromise commitment to Christ. But 'hate' is a strong word and the preferred word for this situation. I do not want to diminish its force, for diminishing the force/demands of Bible language is too easy to do.]

Mk 10:29-31 There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother [or wife] or children and lands for my sake and the gospel's :30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time - houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions - and in the age to come

eternal life. :31 But many who are first will be last and the last first.

[The 'wife' of :29 does not occur in all textual sources. Notice one does not receive a reward of wives in :30. This reflects the Biblical/ Christian recognition that the relationship between husband and wife is different from other human relationships (Gen 2:24). This is because of the sexual union. This highlights the travesty and character chaos of sex outside of marriage and other sexual combinations (1Cor 6:16).]

Lk 18:29-30 There is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children for the sake of the kingdom of God :30 who will not receive many times more in this present time and in the age to come eternal life.

Self Denial: the Practice

Maturity is when I am not dominated by my Self and its demands. Christian maturity is when I can handle an objective contained Self. Self issues will always short-circuit ambition/ goals/ projects with such Self demands as: What about me? What is in this for me? What will happen to me? Why do I feel threatened? What do I want? I don't deserve this! This can't be happening to me! It's not fair! It's my party and I'll cry if I want to! If I do not have Self under **cross-control**, I am continually plagued by the stinging demands of a rogue Self that is not contained as the structured, nailed, committed Self of the disciplined cross carrier. Jesus knew who He was. May we know who we are in Him.

Mother Teresa says 'to be a saint' means

1. I will despoil myself of all that is not God.
2. I will strip my heart of all created things.
3. I will live in poverty and detachment.
4. I will renounce my will, my inclinations, my whims and fancies.
5. I will make myself a willing slave to the will of God.