

Yahweh M'Kaddesh - The Lord Who Sanctifies You

[slide 1]

- I. **Introduction** – Story from Farmer's Market in Lititz.
 - Visiting friend, went to Roots Farmers Market in Manheim, PA.
 - Chatted with guy named George about teaching from his church given the previous week.
 - Guys built this thing to hold things, we determined was ark of the covenant, and when they were taking it by cart, the oxen stumbled, a guy reached out to grab the ark and he was struck down by God. (Can find this in **II Samuel 6** and more complete explanation in **I Chronicles 13 and 15.**)
 - We explained the idea that Israel was using the ark as a good luck symbol to help against the Philistines and had taken it to battle. Philistines beat the Israelites and got the ark. When the Philistines took the ark to their cities, God killed people in those cities with plagues.
 - They sent the ark back on a cart to Israel.
 - When David became King wanted to bring the ark to Jerusalem, got a new cart and when the oxen stumbled, Uzzah went to steady it and got struck down. Later we see that God had already said how to transport the ark; it was to be carried by the Levites.
 - Dave asked George if he thought that God striking down Uzzah was a little harsh. (We'll come back to this later.)
 - This discussion/narrative leads us into the name of God that we will study today - Yahweh M'Kaddesh - The LORD who sanctifies you (or who sets you apart).

- II. Scripture Text.
 - A. **Leviticus 20:7-8** ⁷ "Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. ⁸ Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy." {⁸ Or who sanctifies you; or who sets you apart as holy} [slide 2]
 - B. **Leviticus 20:23-26** ²³ "You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. ²⁴ But I said to you, 'You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations. ²⁵ You must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground-- those which I have set apart as unclean for you. ²⁶ You are to be holy to me {²⁶ Or be my holy ones} because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." [slide 3]

III. Definition.

A. As the name of God - Yehovah M'Kaddesh.

1. M'Kaddesh - In verse 8 I am the **LORD, who makes you holy**, (as Bret taught last week, we see the Hebrew tetragrammaton, we would say Adonai mikaddeshcem - you plural, though I will pronounce it today as Jehovah M'Kaddesh or Yehovah M'Kaddesh) is from the verb form kaddash or root; it means to consecrate, to set apart as sacred, to hallow or to make holy. **[slide 5]**
2. In verse 7 Consecrate yourselves is from a verb form also and be holy (or kaddosh) is the adjective from the same cognate or root as the verb kaddash.
3. See also in Leviticus 20:26 You are to be holy and I, the LORD, am holy are again adjectives - kaddosh. **[slide 5]**
4. This title of God - Yehovah M'Kaddesh is going to show up 6 times in the book of Leviticus and one time in the book of Exodus. What he makes holy includes people, altar, the tabernacle curtain, the sanctuary, and sacred offerings.

B. Word Sanctify or Term Set Apart.

1. Sanctifies - other words - dedicate, consecrate, sanctuary, hallow, holy, and Holy One in reference to God. Various forms are found over 700 times in scripture.
2. Primary meaning is to separate or set apart.
3. If you and I were Israelites, what would our perspective be of set apart?
 - a. We would see the Sabbath day, feasts and fasts, the year of Jubilee, firstborn males of herds and flocks, and the Day of Atonement.
 - b. Sanctify is used for their different places, like the camp of Israel, the city of Jerusalem, the tabernacle, the altar, and the Temple.
 - c. The term applies to people for specific purposes and for the nation as separate from the other nations.
4. Term also points to relationship with God, set apart to God. Mount Sinai was a mountain set apart to God, the mountain of God. The Israelites were set apart to God as the people of God. The sanctuary was the dwelling place of God.
5. One of the primary ways that we use kaddash is in using the word holy. We sang several worship songs today pointing to God's holiness, our desire to be holy. What do we mean by this? How do we become holy or sanctified?

IV. God is Holy.

- A. Back to our text in **Leviticus 20:26** ²⁶ **You are to be holy to me {²⁶ Or be my holy ones} because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.” [slide 7]**
- B. **Leviticus 22:32** ³² **Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes {³² Or made} you holy {³² Or who sanctifies you; or who sets you apart as holy} [slide 7]**
- C. We'd been studying the book of Isaiah before this study of the names of God. God is referred to as the “Holy One” in Isaiah over 30 times.
1. **Isaiah 12:6** **Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.” [slide 9]**
This sounds positive for Israel.
 2. **Isaiah 30:9-11** ⁹ **These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. ¹⁰ They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things; prophesy illusions. ¹¹ Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!" [slide 9]**
This sounds negative. Do we not like being confronted with God's in his holiness?
 3. **Isaiah 48:17** **This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.” [slide 11]** God as the Holy One directs us and teaches us. There is relationship.
 4. **Isaiah 43:15** **“I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King.” [slide 11]** Should Israel have any doubt about their God, the Holy One? No!
- D. There are a number of other scriptures that describe God as holy all the way through to Revelation - **Revelation 15:4** **Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” [slide 13]**
- E. David in the Psalms speaks of God's holy hill, temple, dwelling, heaven, place, mountain, land, his holy arm, and his holy name. Where God is, it is holy.
- F. The contrast to God as holy is the other Canaanite gods that are around the people of Israel. What are they like? The pagan gods were always fighting. They required sacrifices of children. Worship of those gods included all kinds of perversions. They were gods of wood and stone who cannot see, hear, eat or smell. God, the Holy One of Israel brought judgment down on those gods, the gods of Egypt when delivering the Israelites, and the Canaanite gods when they came into the Promised Land.

- V. God's People Were to Be Holy, Sanctified, Set Apart.
- A. Back to our text **Leviticus 20:7** **"Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Verse 26 You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."** [slide 15]
 - B. **Leviticus 11:44-45** ⁴⁴ **I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground. ⁴⁵ I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.** [slide 17]
 - C. **Exodus 19:5-6** **Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."** [slide 17]
 - D. New Testament - **I Corinthians 1:2** **To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-- their Lord and ours:** [slide 19]
 - E. God's purpose in setting us apart - to deliver us and to bring us to his holy dwelling. Remember the Scripture Reading for this morning. Exodus 15:1-4, 11-13.
 1. God delivered Israel from the Egyptians - the verses were the song of Moses to God.
 2. **Exodus 15:11-13** ¹¹ **"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? ¹² You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. ¹³ "In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.** [slide 21]
 - a. God is majestic in holiness - how do we see holiness?
 - b. God's desire was to lead the Israelites to his holy dwelling. As we would later read in scripture, that dwelling went with the Israelites.
- VI. How Are We Made Holy - Sanctified, Set Apart?
- A. Prior to Christ - Let's look at the Israelites. Yehovah M'Kaddesh is the LORD who sanctifies you. How did he sanctify the Israelites?
 1. **Leviticus 18:1-5** **The LORD said to Moses, ² "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. ³ You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. ⁴ You must obey my laws and be careful to**

follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. ⁵ Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.” [slide 23]

2. To be separate from the practices of the peoples around Israel, God gave Israel his laws and commands. In the book of Exodus, the people of Israel are delivered from Egypt and they come to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. They receive the instruction about the Tabernacle for God’s presence. In the book of Leviticus they learn how to walk with God as a people already redeemed. Leviticus deals with their relationship to God and to others. Leviticus provided the instructions to walk holy before God. Chapters 17-26 of Leviticus are considered a separate law code called the “Holiness Code”.
3. **Leviticus 18:30 Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the LORD your God. [slide 25]**
4. Back to our original text: **Leviticus 20:23 You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. [slide 25]**
5. Yahweh will legislate every part of life for his people Israel. This includes their cultural, social, civil, moral and economic aspects of life.
6. Back to my original introduction - did it seem harsh that God would strike Uzzah dead? There was a prescribed way to carry the ark of the covenant and the first time David tried to do it, he used a cart. The second time, he followed the law of God and was able to take the ark to Jerusalem.
7. So how did Israel like Yahweh M’Kaddesh? They rebelled. They wanted to serve and worship the gods that were around them. They didn’t want God as their King. They rejected the prophets who continually declared God’s ways. They did not want to be confronted with the Holy One as we read earlier in Isaiah.
 - a. How easy was it to obey all the commands God had given them? Sanctification is not only related to position toward God, but also in outward actions.
 - b. What about the laws - for example - Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. What was the punishment by the law for working on the Sabbath? Death - a man was stoned for collecting wood on the Sabbath in Numbers 15.

- c. How would you like the Jewish food laws, no pork, no rabbits, only creatures in seas that have fins or scales, so no clams, oysters, scallops, and crabs?
- B. After Christ - Christians.
1. So what happens with us? Who is Yehovah M'Kaddesh to us? Jesus sanctifies us to cause us to be holy.
 2. **Colossians 1:22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- [slide 27]
 3. **I Corinthians 6:11** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. [slide 27]
 4. **Romans 15:15-16** ¹⁵ I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. [slide 29]
 5. This looks great, we don't have to do anything because of Christ and the Holy Spirit. We don't have to follow a bunch of laws, right?
 6. In Acts 15, some men from Judah came to teach the Gentile Christians that they needed to be circumcised and obey the law of Moses. What was the response of the council? No, don't put a yoke on the disciples that the Jews could not bear.
 7. **Colossians 3:5-8** ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. [slide 31]
 8. Aren't these some of the same things that the Israelites had to deal with - sexual immorality, idolatry? How do we work through these things? We have the Holy Spirit and the work of Christ.
 9. We have God's word - **John 17:17-19** ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. [slide 33]

10. We have God's law - **Hebrews 8:10** **This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. [slide 33]**
11. Why do we want to be holy? **Hebrews 12:14** **Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. [slide 35]**
 - a. We desire to see God. The impurity of Israel stopped them from having the continual presence of God in their midst. Yahweh M'Kaddesh is our LORD who sanctifies us. He will not stop until we die or Jesus comes back.

VIII. Application.

- A. Do you and I enjoy God's holiness?
 1. Psalm 119 is full of David's delight with God's commands, word, statutes, laws, decrees, and precepts. To enjoy these are to enjoy our God.
 2. Do you and I enjoy the worship of God in his holiness?
Psalm 29:2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.**
 - B. Do we see God has set us apart to be holy, even as he is holy?
 1. It means we don't get to live like the world around us, like the Israelites; we are to be in the world but not of the world. We are set apart to God. Holiness means we walk in his character. Do we practice holiness as much as we enjoy the position of holiness?
 2. Why didn't Moses get to go in the Promised Land? Because when the Israelites grumbled about not having water a second time, Moses did not represent God as holy. God's solution was for Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock but Moses got angry and hit the rock twice.
 3. The good news is that Moses continued his relationship with God.
- IX. Final prayer/blessing **1 Thessalonians 5:23** **May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**