



## The Oil of Consecration Preston Morrison

**Focus** Consecration is the dedication of something or someone to the service and worship of God. You don't set yourself apart to earn God's affection because you already have His love and acceptance. As believers, we consecrate our lives to God as a love response and act of worship. God wants *all* of you because you are His favorite thing.

**Fun** Are you a staycation or vacation kind of person? What does your ideal staycation or vacation look like?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Leviticus 8:10–12; Exodus 30:30; Psalm 4:3

**1. Consecration is romantic, not religious.**

In Exodus 30, God commanded Moses to consecrate Aaron and his sons as priests. Consecration is the dedication of something or someone to the service and worship of God. You don't set yourself apart to earn God's affection because you already have it. God loves to connect with us intimately. Setting ourselves apart to minister to God is our best response to His love.

**2. Consecration demands boundaries.**

Believers are not at their best or safest when *they* set their own boundaries; believers are at their best when *God* sets their boundaries. Those who set their own rules cannot live a consecrated life. God invites every believer to live within the boundaries He has set for them.

**3. Consecration is a priestly mandate.**

In biblical times, priests were required to be consecrated to minister to God and represent God to the people. Revelation 1:6 reveals believers are a kingdom of

priests for God. Many believers want to reign with Christ as kings, but for this to happen, believers must first minister to Christ as priests.

#### **4. Consecrated priests make extravagant sacrifices.**

The work of a priest is to offer sacrifices to God and minister to Him. One way we can minister to God is through our praise and worship. In Romans 12:1, the Apostle Paul writes that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. God doesn't want part of you; He wants all of you. God's favorite sacrifice from you is *you*.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** One of your tasks as a group leader is to develop the gifts of others in your group. If you haven't already, consider one or two people in your group who you think may have the gifts of teaching and leadership. Consider assigning a group meeting to them where they would facilitate. Coach them on how to facilitate group discussion and how to help members feel connected. Afterward, offer them feedback on how they did, and coach them on areas of growth. This will help them build skills and grow in their gifts.

#### **Discuss**

1. What does the word "consecration" mean to you, and what comes to mind when you hear it?
2. Pastor Preston Morrison shared that consecration is romantic, not religious. What do you think he meant by this?
3. Should all Christians be consecrated, or does it only apply to pastors?
4. What does consecration look like for the believer in everyday life?
5. How is being set apart a form of worship to God?
6. Is there an area of your life you haven't consecrated to the Lord? If so, spend some time with the Lord right now and ask Him to show you how to set that area of your life apart for Him.
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

#### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Consecration is an act of love.
- Consecration requires boundaries.
- Consecration is for priests.
- All believers are called to be priests.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are grateful You delight in us, love us, and accept us. More than anything, You want to connect with us. Help us consecrate our lives daily to You and lay aside anything that hinders us from connecting with You. We want You to set the boundaries for our lives. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** We can only minister to others out of the overflow of our walk with Jesus, but sometimes it is hard to set aside consistent time to connect with God and study the Bible. If the busyness of summer has distracted you from your daily time of connecting with God, take a moment now to recommit to prayer and Bible study. Look at your summer plans and strategically set aside time to fill your spiritual cup with God's presence.