

**Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel**  
**Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen**  
**(Old Testament)**

Exodus 22:31

Holy Men

*And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.*

As a hunter, I've seen animals that were torn apart by predators. I can plainly tell you that I would not want to eat the remains. Imagine all the contaminants: dirt, waste, saliva, hair, maggots, worms, vomit, and bacteria. Dirt alone sounds pretty appetizing when compared to the other things!

For some reason, though, our hunting dogs don't mind the mess. They'll roll on the decaying beast until they have smeared its ripe odor all over themselves. That noble, clean, well-groomed, hunting companion then becomes what he really is – a dog with crude instincts and a taste for stinky meat. As the verse above indicates, you can throw a dead animal to the dogs. They'll gladly eat it or at least play with it.

This verse is a clear command to be holy men before God. Because men are the glory of God (I Corinthians 11:7), there should be an aura of holiness around our character – our Christian character mind you. For without Christ in our lives, we are merely one of those predators in search of holiness and intent on contaminating it. When Jesus is Lord, holiness comes upon us because He, alone, is holy (Psalm 99:3, 5). He, alone, defines what holiness is and guards its essence.

The only thing that we can offer is our obedience to be holy men to God. But we should not be holier-than-thou. We should just be holy (Richards, 2003). A holier-than-thou attitude means that we've based our holiness on "thou" and not on Jesus. Again, we are to be holy men to God, not to "thou." Any other action, any other attitude, or any other attribute is mere dog food.

Still, we do tend to pervert holiness by our own use of the term. How often have you heard people (or yourself) say something like "holy cow," or "holy moley," or "holy smokes?" Are we perverting holiness when we use these phrases loosely? Let's see... *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory* (Isaiah 6:3). Cows, moles, and smoke are not holy. God is holy. If we attach that title to anything or anyone else, we pervert holiness. Maybe we even take the name of the Lord God in vain when we equate Him with other things we deem to be holy.

You might think that this is a little extreme. I do not. It's time that men of God take extreme measures to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If that means being serious about His holiness, then let's get serious. If that means obeying His command to be holy, then let's be obedient.

Let's be holy men. Let us not yield holiness to cows, moles, or smoke. To God, alone, the glory.

*Holy As Thou, O Lord, Is None*  
Charles Wesley (1708 – 1788)

Holy as Thou, O Lord, is none; Thy holiness is all Thine own;  
A drop of that unbounded sea is ours – a drop derived from Thee.  
And when Thy purity we share, Thine only glory we declare;  
And, humbled into nothing, own, holy and pure is God alone.  
Sole, self-existing God and Lord, by all Thy heav'nly hosts adored;  
Let all on earth bow down to Thee, and own Thy peerless majesty.  
Thy power unparalleled confess, established on the Rock of peace;  
The Rock that never shall remove, the Rock of pure, almighty, love.

**Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)**

Exodus 22:31

Holy Men

HOOK

1. Give one reason why you would not eat the meat of an animal that died of natural causes.

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2. In your view, what animal is the most efficient predator? Describe how it kills its prey.

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3. List three things considered holy by other religions. Tell why each one is believed to be so.

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A holier-than-thou attitude means that we've based our holiness on "thou" and not on Jesus. We are to be holy men to God, not to "thou."

Cows, moles, and smoke are not holy. God is holy. If we attach that title to anything or anyone else, we pervert holiness. Maybe we even take the name of the Lord God in vain when we equate Him with other things we deem to be holy.

Let's be holy men. Let us not yield holiness to cows, moles, or smoke. To God, alone, the glory.

Is it okay to say something like "holy cow?" Defend your answer from a Biblical perspective.

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Describe how you present yourself a holy man to God. Discuss your answer in terms of obedient Christian living and how you refrain from worldly things.

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SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words:    holy                    obedience                    predator

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