

Leviticus 11

12-28-00

“Taste Like Chicken!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. The 3rd part of the book starts here (Offerings – Priests – now, **Cleanliness**)
 - 1.1.1. It **isn't** always easy to see the reasons for the **prohibitions**.
 - 1.1.2. **3 theories advanced to explain these dietary regulations:**
 - 1.1.2.1. **[1]** To help Israel avoid **pagan** sacrificial rites.
 - 1.1.2.2. **[2]** To guide Israel to **healthy** sources of food & to avoid animals that are more likely to transmit disease.
 - 1.1.2.3. **[3]** To help Israel maintain its **separation** from other nations.
- 1.2. Adding to the picture of the distance between a **holy God** & **sinful humanity**, chapters 11-17 emphasizes “cleanness vs. uncleanness” in diet, hygiene, & disease”.
 - 1.2.1. (11) Food; (12) Birth; (13,14) Disease; (15) Normal Bodily functions
 - 1.2.2. These laws certainly served a **practical hygienic purpose**, **yet** there was also a **spiritual principle** involved.
- 1.3. We don't know when God's people 1st received the law about clean & unclean foods.
 - 1.3.1. It was known in **Noah's** day – **Gen.7:2** “You shall take with you seven each of every **clean** animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are **unclean**, a male and his female”
- 1.4. God seems to take every possible way of emphasizing the supreme necessity of holiness.
 - 1.4.1. Here is the gospel for our body:
 - 1.4.1.1. “**Glorify God in your body**” (1 Cor.6:20)
 - 1.4.1.2. “**Present your bodies...**”(Rom.12:1)
 - 1.4.1.3. “**Whatever you eat or drink...to the glory of God.**” (1 Cor.10:31)
 - 1.4.2. The N.T. lays great stress on **the body** as a part of our **redeeming being**.
 - 1.4.2.1. **1 Thes.5:23** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you **completely**; and may your **whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - 1.4.2.2. **1 Cor.6:13** “Now the **body** is not for sexual immorality but **for the Lord**, and the Lord for the **body**.”

1.5. So, is Cleanliness next to Godliness?

- 1.5.1. Saying was credited to **John Wesley**(context was actually dress).
 - 1.5.1.1. Probably it was current before his time.
- 1.5.2. It was back under OT Law!
- 1.5.3. Jews from birth till death submitted to **every aspect** of their daily lives to the authority of God's law.
 - 1.5.3.1. Whether selecting **food**, **preparing** it, the care for a **mother** or her **newborn**, diagnosing a **disease**, disposing of **waste**, **nothing** was left to chance in the camp, lest someone be defiled.

2. **DON'T EAT! (1-23)**

2.1. EDIBLE ANIMALS! (1-8)

- 2.1.1. **Quadrupeds** – The diet of the Israelite was largely restricted to animals used in sacrifice.
 - 2.1.1.1. Only those, which **divide the hoof & chew the cud** were allowed.
- 2.1.2. **Hare** – not our rabbit(some other animal)our rabbit doesn't **chew its cud**.
- 2.1.3. Well meaning people try to "**spiritualize**" these laws to find some "deeper" truth in them!
 - 2.1.3.1. They make "**chewing the cud**" to mean **mediating on scripture**.
 - 2.1.3.2. They make "**the cloven hoof**" to picture a **separated walk** in Christ.
 - 2.1.3.3. **Can be points of application but not points of interpretation.**

2.2. FISH FRY! (9-12)

- 2.2.1. **Permission** given to those only w/fins & scales.
- 2.2.2. Bottom/scavenger fish & crustaceans/shell fish were considered unclean. They can pick up parasites easier off the bottom.
- 2.2.3. Some fish turn poisonous for a couple months during the year (like clams do).

2.3. BIRDS OF PREY! (13-19)

- 2.3.1. Covers carnivorous birds & those w/unclean habits.
 - 2.3.1.1. Vultures have **no hair** on their heads/necks, because their feathers would constantly be covered with blood from their victims.
- 2.3.2. **Story** - Spotted owl story. **Man was caught killing one. Judge heard his story(to feed his family). Judge let off this time. When leaving Judge asked what it tasted like? Cross between a Bald Eagle & a Ca. Condor!**

2.4. LOCUST LUNCH! (20-23)

- 2.4.1. If they leap they are permitted, if they run they're forbidden.
- 2.4.2. "Couldn't you just hear the camp of Israel let out a big "Yippy-Yi-Yo!" on that one?"

3. DON'T TOUCH! (24-43)

3.1. Moses didn't only warn the Jews to beware of what they ate, but they must also beware of what they touched!

- 3.1.1. Coming upon a dead animal, 2 things, **[1]** The blood wasn't drained properly **[2]** It wasn't protected from contamination.

3.2. CONTACTING CARCASSES! (24-40)

3.2.1. Defiled by Dead Animals! (24-28)

- 3.2.1.1. When defilement spreads, 1 person's carelessness could effect many people. {Haiti - **Rat** in cistern. Julio wasn't keeping the door locked. Good thing we checked it. Lost about 20,000 gallons of water}
- 3.2.1.2. **Samson**, in **Judges 14:1-9**, tell of him killing a **lion** w/his bare hands, & later returning **bees** had made a hive in it & he ate of its honey.
 - 3.2.1.2.1. **Q:** Why does the writer tell us of this story...**because** this defiled him & broke his Nazarite Vow.
 - 3.2.1.2.2. (Judges 14:9) "He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. **But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.**"
 - 3.2.1.2.3. No matter how "**sweet**" your sin may seem at the time, it is putrid in Gods sight.

3.2.2. Defiled by Things!(29-40)

- 3.2.2.1. We know now the importance of washing our dishes, clothes, food, etc.
- 3.2.2.2. (34) We have to be very careful of this in Haiti (water splashing).

3.3. CREEPING THINGS! (41-43)

- 3.3.1. (42) **Crawls on its belly** – an old proverb says, "When you see a snake, never mind where he came from!"

3.4. **Q:** What do you need to "beware of what you touch"?

- 3.4.1. **Q:** What do you need to keep your hands off of?
- 3.4.2. "Be careful little hands what you touch..."

4. **DISCERNING!** (44-47)

4.1. PURPOSE OF DIETARY LAWS! (44-47)

4.1.1. As God's people, Israel had to be separated from **everything** that God called unclean.

4.1.1.1. Leviticus mentions "Be Holy for I am Holy" ...9 times!!!

4.1.1.2. It is quoted by **Peter** (1 Pet.1:15,16) as applying to **NT Christians today!**

4.1.2. Remember the **Gnostics** went to 2 extremes when it came to the body. Since God only cares about the spirit of man, the physical man doesn't matter...thus:

4.1.2.1. **[1] Feed the flesh** – Feed it whatever it craves, whenever it craves it, because the flesh(i.e. all material things) is evil any ways.

4.1.2.2. **[2] Starve the flesh** – Because it is evil, buffet it as best & as much as you possibly can.

4.1.3. Dietary Laws were **temporary**...but the principle is **permanent!**

4.1.3.1. **Mark 7:15,18,19** "There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man..." "Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, "because it does not enter his **heart** but his **stomach**, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?"

4.1.3.2. **Acts 10:9-18** – Peter/Cornelius. Sheet Vision

4.1.3.2.1. **(13-15)** "...Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything **common** or **unclean**." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has **cleansed** you must not call **common**."

4.1.3.2.2. God had cleansed the Gentile, Cornelius.

4.1.3.3. **1 Tim.4:1-5** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and **commanding to abstain from foods** which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For **every creature of God is good**, and **nothing** is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

4.1.3.4. **Gal.2:11-16** – Paul rebuking Peter's hypocrisy of getting up from eating w/Gentiles when the Jews showed up.

4.1.3.4.1. Peter was trying to maintain a "Kosher" house.

4.1.3.4.2. **Kosher** = "right, fit". People in a Kosher home only ate those things that God said were **right & fit**.

- 4.1.3.5. **Col.2:13-17** (Abolished w/Christ) “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having **wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross**...So let no one judge you in **food** or in **drink**, or regarding a **festival** or a **new moon** or **sabbaths**, which are a **shadow** of things to come, but the **substance** is of Christ.”
- 4.1.4. **Believers must have discernment & avoid what is unclean!**
- 4.1.4.1. **2 Cor.7:1** “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all **filthiness of the flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
- 4.1.4.2. **Our separation** is to be “**internal**” & cannot be defined by what we eat or by any other “morally neutral practices”.
- 4.1.4.3. Our **diet** is not a means to **salvation** or **holiness!**
- 4.1.4.4. Christians are free to eat what they please, but they must keep **1 Cor.10:31** in mind “**Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**”
- 4.1.5. **Other nations were able to do those things, but the Jews could not.**
- 4.1.5.1. **Q:** Should there be a difference in **Christians & non-Christians** today that set **us** apart?
- 4.1.5.1.1. **Name some:** What we say, or don't say; where we go or don't go.
“**They'll know we are Christians by our love!**”
- 4.1.5.2. **Q:** Do we **welcome** these differences, or **resist** them?
- 4.1.5.3. **Q:** Do we wear our “differences” as a **badge of honor**, or as an **embarrassing spot**? {Like a “His Club” pin/badge; or like a coffee stain on your shirt}
- 4.2. **(47) “to distinguish”** – As they *distinguish* between clean & unclean, that causes them to be *distinguished* amongst other nations.
- 4.2.1. That's why **David** called **Goliath** an “**uncircumcised Philistine**”, it was to distinguish as “other”.
- 4.2.1.1. **Circumcised** – The sacramental sign that a man(w/wife & kids) belonged in covenant w/God. (thus Goliath wsn't)

4.2.2. **Distinguish between right & wrong:**

- 4.2.2.1. As a **Pathologist** looks through his/her microscope, he/she can see a difference between a **healthy cell & a cancerous one**.
- 4.2.2.2. The **expert Musician** can hear the difference between the **right note & the almost-right note**.
- 4.2.2.3. The **expert Writer** knows difference between “**any word**” & “**the right word**”.
- 4.2.2.4. So, the **mature believer** can exercise discernment, identify what is unclean & avoid it.

4.3. We are to be “set apart” to God. God is intimately concerned w/**everything** that happens in our daily lives!

4.3.1. So Paul says, “**Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.**” (2 Cor.6:17)

4.3.2. **G. Cambell Morgan** was right when he said that the church did the most **for the world** when the church was the **least like the world**.

4.4. **Q:** In seeking to follow the Lord, would you rather have the list of do’s & don’ts? Or, be led by scripture & the H.S.?

4.4.1. **Pro’s** – You know what the Lord expects.

4.4.2. **Con’s** – Any list can be interpreted differently(Pharisees, Saducees, & Scribes proved that).

4.4.2.1. Heart issue, why am I doing this? Because I want to or have to? – Duty or Devotion?

4.4.2.2. Obeying these OT lists gave them **ceremonial purity**, but didn’t make them necessarily **holy in character**.

4.4.3. Problem with lists? “**Man loves darkness rather than light**”(Jn.3:19)

4.4.3.1. Evangelist **Billy Sunday** used to say that a **sinner** can’t find **God** for the same reason a **criminal** can’t find a police officer...**the criminal isn’t looking very hard!**”