

Leviticus 15

2-1-01

“Your Body is a Temple!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Discharge**(24 x’s); **Unclean**(29 x’s); **Bathe in water**(11 x’s)
 - 1.1.1. **Is this really still an issue???**
 - 1.1.2. **Yes!** – In most 3rd world countries.
 - 1.1.3. **I’ve seen:** lady **urinate** next to her a chair right after a conference on hygiene. – **syringes** & other med supplies discarded out into an open air corridor at a hospital. – Used **plastic gloves** being dried out. – **Cat** up on a gurney licking the waste from a man w/tetanus. – **Large rats** running through the hospital. – Wiped dry blood on a table w/a 1” plastic covered foam “mattress” – **China** train station, feces on track.
- 1.2. These truths on hygiene that we take so much for granted still need to be taught today.
 - 1.2.1. **Story** of “**Black Death**” (William Barclay pg.82)
 - 1.2.2. “It is notable that in the **Middle Ages**, when, on a number of occasions, up to a third of the population of Europe’s cities perished from the plague which they called the **Black Death**, **Jews**, though living in the confined areas of the ghettos of those same cities, suffered from the plague to a much lesser extent than did their fellow-citizens. In their bewilderment, therefore, there were those who declared that since the Jews “**were not dying like flies as we Gentiles are**”, clearly the devil must be looking after his own. Such ignorant and biased persons added fuel to the fires of the latent anti-Semitism of the times, and continued to arouse the bereaved citizens to take vengeance on those “enemies of Christ”, the Jews. But the **near immunity** of the Jew from infection in reality sprang from the fact that he **kept strictly the laws of hygiene** that we find in our book of **Leviticus**...”

2. **CEREMONIAL UNCLEANNESS! (1-33)**

- 2.1. The chapter can be cut in half: **DISCHARGE OF THE MAN!** (1-18); & **DISCHARGE OF THE WOMAN!** (19-30)
 - 2.1.1. Regarding (16-18) – In no way was marital intimacy “a sin”, but we know today “**any**” body fluids can transmit uncleanness(disease) to someone else!

- 2.1.2. The **body** is not sinful, & **bodily functions** are not morally defiling. But our **nature**(*flesh*) is sinful & produces what is sinful & defiling.
- 2.1.2.1. If we are not careful we may **touch others** & defile them as well.
- 2.1.2.2. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and **all uncleanness.**"
- 2.2. Or, it be sliced another way: **DISCHARGE FROM INFECTIONS!** (1-15); & **NORMAL FUNCTIONS OF THE BODY!** (16-30)
- 2.2.1. Regarding normal functions of the body, this brings about **ceremonial uncleanness not moral** uncleanness.
- 2.2.2. There was also a **contrast** going on here of **Pagan Religions!**
- 2.2.2.1. Pagan Religions typically coupled worship of deities w/sexual intercourse, & often included Temple Prostitutes.
- 2.2.2.2. But in Israel sexual intercourse made **both** the male & female **ritually unclean**. And no ritually unclean person could take part in the **worship**.
- 2.2.3. This chapter suggests sin as **ingrained in the nature!** (e.g. sacrifices are nec. see vs.14,15).
- 2.2.3.1. It goes far deeper than any **act of the will**.
- 2.2.3.2. There is a real distinction between **Sin** & **Sins**, between **Root** & **Fruit**, between **Nature** & **Practice**.
- 2.2.3.3. The former are suggested & symbolized by this chapter, & need atonement & cleansing equally w/those of which we are conscious.
- 2.3. **PURPOSE OF THE LAWS!** (31-33)
- 2.3.1. **Sanitation & health** were part of those laws.
- 2.3.1.1. Public health value was important.
- 2.3.1.2. **Personal Hygiene & God's concern for women** are certainly involved in these regulations, but the main thrust is **enforcing personal sanctity**.
- 2.3.1.3. But fundamentally God was teaching His people how to live **separate** from **defilement**.
- 2.3.1.4. And **the priest** was both **doctor**(diagnosing) & **pastor**(dealing w/the intimacies of the home)
- 2.3.1.4.1. **He taught** the rich & poor, educated & uneducated alike, some simple rules of hygiene, including some **facts** about **infections** & **how** to deal w/it.

- 2.3.2. Even the “**things**” needed to be cleansed! (saddle they sat on, pottery & wood they touched).
- 2.3.2.1. The prophet **Zechariah** said, “In that day “**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**” shall be engraved on **the bells of the horses**. The **pots** in the Lord's house shall be **like the bowls before the altar**. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. (Zech.14:20,21)
- 2.3.2.2. Even the **kitchen** & the **stable** can be holy places! (holiness everywhere & in everything)
- 2.3.2.3. **Q:** Is your **VCR** Holy?(set apart) From your **VCR** to your **family car**; from your **PC** to your **DVD**; from your **magazine** to your **latrine**, these should be things & places in which you set apart as holy in your life...Have you?
- 2.3.2.4. **Q:** Which of these I named need to be **sanctified again** in your life?
- 2.4. Other places in scripture where these issues in this chapter come up?
- 2.4.1. In 2 Samuel it shows the heinousness of David’s lust for the body of **Bathsheba** was compounded by the fact that she was “**purifying herself from her uncleanness**.”
- 2.4.1.1. “Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.” Or, “When she purified herself from her uncleanness”, then she went back home. (2 Sam.11:4)
- 2.4.1.2. **See** Lev.15:19.
- 2.4.1.3. This allowed the woman, during her menstruation, to have rest.
- 2.4.2. **Rachael** used her monthly period as a ploy when she deceived her father about his household gods.
- 2.4.2.1. **Gen.31:34,35** “Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them. And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for **the manner of women is with me**." And he searched but did not find the household idols.”
- 2.4.2.2. **See** Lev.15:20
- 2.4.3. **Rom.12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you “**present your bodies**” a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
- 2.5. Not let’s go to the NT & look at a woman with this ch.’s problem.

3. THE WOMEN W/THE ISSUE OF BLOOD! (Mark 5:25-34)

- 3.1. **HER HOPELESSNESS!** (25,26a)
- 3.1.1. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.
- 3.1.2. 1st a **wealthy religious leader** & now an **anonymous poor woman**.
- 3.1.3. **12 years!** - 12 years of **segregation** in certain ways, that we learn from lev.15. How miserable!
- 3.1.4. Dr. Luke said it was **incurable** by any human physician.
- 3.1.4.1. **Lk.8:43** “who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and **could not be healed by any,**”
- 3.1.5. **Our Hopelessness:**
- 3.1.5.1. Maybe tonight you come utterly Hopeless
- 3.1.5.2. There are no hopeless situations. There are only people who have grown hopeless about them.
- 3.1.5.3. **Cynicism** is cancer of the spirit. The bad cells of **sarcasm** attack the good cells of **hope** and, if **undiagnosed**, will eventually **destroy them**.¹
- 3.1.5.4. **Other men** see only a hopeless end, but **the Christian** rejoices in an endless hope!²
- 3.2. **HER HELPLESSNESS!** (26b)
- 3.2.1. She expended **all** her property & it **grew worse!**
- 3.2.2. **Our Helplessness:**
- 3.2.2.1. **Ps,10:14** “The **helpless** commits himself to You;”
- 3.2.2.2. When you’re at the end of your rope...let go of the rope... God is there to catch you!
- 3.3. **HIS HEM!** (27-29)
- 3.3.1. Her touch should have made Him **defiled**, instead His Divine Power brought **health & cleansing** in response to her faith.
- 3.3.2. The **Hem**/boarder (Lk.8:44) is clearly (κρασπεδου – kraspedoo) which means **tassel** or fringe.
- 3.3.2.1. The outer garment Jesus would have worn was **rectangular** in shape. It would have had a **tassel** in all 4 corners. With a hole in the middle it was often worn like a poncho, w/a tassel in the front, 1 on each side, & 1 in the back. – Which she would have touched!

¹ Fred Smith

² Gilbert Beenken

3.3.2.2. This is the **cloak** of Mt.5:40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your **tunic**(*undergarment*), let him have your **cloak** also.

3.3.2.3. **See** – Numbers 15:37

3.3.2.3.1. Naturally the **Pharisees** had a problem w/pride w/this also, "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their **phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders** of their garments."

3.3.3. Touching the Hem of His garment was like turning on the **brightest flood light** in the middle of a **photographers dark room!**

3.3.4. **Our Hem Grabbing:**

3.3.4.1. If you can't grasp his **hand**, touch His **Hem!** – That is your 1st step of faith.

3.3.4.2. See, just **being in the crowd** is no assurance of **receiving the blessing!**

3.4. **HER HONESTY! (30-33)**

3.4.1. **(33) “& told Him the whole truth”** – Perhaps she feared that, from the impure nature of her disease, that He would have been offended that she touched Him.

3.4.1.1. She poured out to Him the story of her long sufferings.

3.4.2. **(30) “Who touched my clothes?”** – He asked this not to obtain info, for he had already healed her, & must have known the blessing was conferred; but He did it, that the woman might herself make a confession of the whole matter, by which the power of her faith, & the greatness of the miracle, might be made manifested, to the Praise of God.

3.4.2.1. He wouldn't permit her to steal away in to the crowd & remain anonymous.

3.4.2.2. Had she, she would never have had the opportunity to **glorify God** by her testimony; & she would have **never heard His special words of blessing.**

3.4.3. **Our Honesty:**

3.4.3.1. When we come before the Lord we need to tell Him “the whole truth” also!

3.4.3.2. **Pour out to Him your story!** – He has time to listen – He cares – He comforts – He has compassion!

3.5. **HER FAITH!** (34)3.5.1. “made you well” – to be saved. (*He calls her daughter*)3.5.2. Jesus made it clear that her **faith**, not the **tassels**, had obtained the cure!3.5.3. **Our Faith:**3.5.3.1. **Q:** Are you trusting in the Tassels? - The tangible, the touchable things?3.5.3.2. Our **faith** “in Him” should be as Paul said in 2 Cor.1:9 “we should not **trust in ourselves** but in **God** who raises the dead,”3.5.3.3. **Poem:**

“She, too, who touched Thee in the press, And healing virtue stole,
 Was answered---‘Daughter, go in peace, Thy faith hath made thee whole.’
 Concealed amid the gathering throng, She would have shunned Thy view;
 And if her faith was firm and strong, Had strong misgivings too.
 Like, her, with hopes and fears, we come To touch Thee, if we may;
 O send us not despairing home; Send none unhealed away.”

3.6. **Communion:**

3.6.1.