

## Message #20

## Leviticus 11:24-47

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the Qumran caves, and in recent times when the excavations took place below the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, it was discovered that there were small pools near the place of worship designed for ritual cleansing.

**IF GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO COME TO WORSHIP GOD AND EXPECT TO ENTER INTO A WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, THEY MUST BE CLEAN, SPECIFICALLY BY NOT TOUCHING THINGS GOD DEEMS UNCLEAN.**

This principle is being lost because people today think real worship is about their abilities and gifts; but real worship is about our hearts and minds being clean.

The O.T. Law has been nailed to the cross, but the principle of being clean and being cleansed is still operative in this dispensation. The way to be cleansed from all unclean and unrighteous things is through confession (I John 1:9). If one is to worship God, one must be clean and if he has touched something unclean or if something unclean has touched him, he must be clean.

Now there is an impressive list in this section of things that could make an Israelite unclean and it all has to do with touching or having some type of contact with a dead carcass—**contamination by contact!**

Something very important to see here is that holiness and cleanness are not transferred by contact with clean things, but sinfulness and uncleanness are transferred by contact with unclean things.

**UNCLEAN ACT #1** – If a person touched the carcass of an unclean animal he became unclean and his clothes needed to be washed. **11:24-28**

Now the types of animals that would make one unclean are: 1) Animals with a divided hoof but not a split hoof (**11:26a**); 2) Animals with a split hoof that do not chew the cud (**11:26b**); 3) Animals that walk on all four paws (**11:27**). Our clothing needs to be clean and in the N.T. our clothing refers to our righteousness.

**UNCLEAN ACT #2** – If the person touched the carcass of an unclean swarming thing, he became unclean and his clothes needed to be washed. **11:29-31**

The swarming things are confined to the earth. The list of things that makes one unclean are: 1) Mole; 2) mouse; 3) great lizard; 4) gecko; 5) crocodile; 6) lizard; 7) sand reptile; 8) chameleon. **The point to see is that little things can make us dirty.**

**UNCLEAN ACT #3** – If the carcass of an unclean animal fell on or into certain items, those items were considered to be unclean. **11:32-38**

God taught His people the principle of cleanliness in the preparation of food; how much more it should be in the preparation of worship.

**Stipulation #1** - If any dead carcass fell on anything made of wood, any clothing, any skin or sack or any usable article, it needed to be washed. **11:32**

**Stipulation #2** - If any dead carcass fell into any earthen vessel, the vessel must be broken. **11:33**

**Stipulation #3** - If any dead carcass comes in contact with any unprepared food or drink, that food and drink must be viewed as unclean and unfit for consumption. **11:34**

**Stipulation #4** - If any dead carcass falls on an oven or stove, it must be smashed. **11:35**

**Stipulation #5** - If any dead carcass is found in a spring of water or a cistern for storing water, the water supply is clean but the one who touched the carcass is not. **11:36**

**Stipulation #6** - If any dead carcass falls on any dry seed used for planting, the seed is clean. **11:37**

**Stipulation #7** - If any dead carcass falls on any wet seed, it is unclean. **11:38**

**UNCLEAN ACT #4** – If a clean animal died, the animal may be eaten; however, the one who touches the animal and the one who eats the animal is unclean. **11:39-40**

When His people do or touch that which is unclean, it kills their relationship with God. You and I can kill our spiritual vibrancy by touching unclean things.

**UNCLEAN ACT #5** – Eating any swarming thing on the earth makes one unclean. **11:41-43**

**(Reason #1)** - God wants His people clean because He is our LORD God. **11:44a**

**(Reason #2)** - God wants His people clean so they are consecrated to Him. **11:44b**

**(Reason #3)** - God wants His people clean so they will be holy like Him. **11:44c**

**(Reason #4)** - God wants His people clean because He brought them out of an unclean Egyptian environment. **11:45**

**(Reason #5)** - God wants His people clean because this is His law; this is “the Law.” **11:46-47**

We must make a choice to walk with God or to be contaminated to the world.