

Message #23

Leviticus 13:29-59

As we come to this portion of Leviticus, it is very evident that the place of worship must be clean, the priests of worship must be clean, but so must the person who worships. Nothing that is unclean is capable of worshipping God.

IN ORDER FOR ONE TO WORSHIP GOD, HE MUST BE CLEAN AND THAT REQUIRES THAT GOD'S PRIESTS MAKE AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF ANY DISEASE.

It is not enough to just see the disease; something must be done about the disease. It is not enough to recognize the problem; something must be done about the problem. It is not enough to see the sin; one must be cleansed of the sin.

DIAGNOSIS #1 – The diagnosis of a skin disease on the head or in a beard. **13:29-37**

(Step #1) - The person was to be examined by the priest. **13:30a**

(Step #2) - If infection appears deeper than skin level and the hair is a thin yellowish, the priest is to immediately pronounce the person unclean -it is leprosy. **13:30b**

(Step #3) - If infection is skin deep and there is no black hair in the infectious area, the priest is to isolate the person for seven days. **13:31**

(Step #4) - If after seven days the infection has not spread and no yellowish hair has grown, the person shall shave himself and be isolated seven more days. **13:32-33**

(Step #5) - If after this second seven-day period the infection has not spread, the priest shall pronounce him and his clothing clean. **13:34**

(Step #6) - If he is pronounced clean and the infection spreads, the priest is to examine the person and declare him unclean. **13:35-36**

(Step #7) - If the infectious area has not disappeared but black hair has grown, he is clean. **13:37**

DIAGNOSIS #2 – Diagnosis of a bright spot on the skin. **13:38-39**

If the spot on the body were white, the person was to be pronounced clean.

DIAGNOSIS #3 – Diagnosis of baldness and skin disease. **13:40-44**

If a man lost his hair and became bald, he is clean (**13:40-41**). If a swelling were on his head and it was reddish-white, it is leprosy and he is unclean and the priest is to pronounce him unclean (**13:42-44**).

Being pronounced unclean was a very serious matter and we see in **verses 45-46** the ramifications:

- 1) The person was to tear his clothes (**13:45a**)—total humility.
- 2) The person was not to cover his head (**13:45b**).
- 3) The person was to cover his moustache (**13:45c**).
- 4) The person was to cry “unclean, unclean” (**13:45d**)—accurate diagnosis of himself.
- 5) The person was to live alone (**13:46a**).
- 6) The person was to live alone outside the camp (**13:46b**).

The person pronounced unclean lived alone, separated from family, friends, and most significantly, from worshipping God.

DIAGNOSIS #4 – Diagnosis of disease in clothing . **13:47-59**

Garments were made of different things in this time period: wool, linen, warp or woof (probably two different types of material or yarn), and leather. What seems to be described here is some mildew on the clothing which doesn't mean much to us, but it certainly did in this period.

There are three instances in which clothing were declared unclean:

- 1) If a greenish or reddish mark in the material does not go away after a seven day quarantine, the garment is to be declared unclean (**13:49-51**).
- 2) If the mark has not spread but the mark hasn't changed, the garment shall be washed and quarantined another seven days and if the mark is still there, it is declared unclean. **13:52-55**
- 3) If after the quarantine the mark has faded and then reappears, it is to be declared unclean. **13:56-57**

Now once an article was declared unclean it was to be burned. So the risk of being declared unclean was that this item could be destroyed. On the other hand, it was possible that the spot could disappear and be declared clean (**13:58**). In this instance, something that had been unclean could be declared clean again and be used again.

Now one in this dispensation may be saying what does all of this clothing stuff mean to me? What is the application I can make? If we go to the book of Jude in verse 23, we discover that one metaphor of clothing or garment is our own flesh. The person who is dominated by the flesh is in no position to worship God until the pollution has been removed through confession. It is possible for a person who has done sinful, unclean things to be declared clean to the point that he or she can be greatly used by God. But in order for that to happen a judicial cleansing before God must take place. What steps should be taken?

- 1) Humble yourself before God.
- 2) Bow your head and heart before Him.
- 3) Get alone with God away from everyone else.
- 4) Declare yourself to be unclean and point out to God the specific spot you are unclean.