

Message #22

Leviticus 13:1-28

In Jeremiah 6:14, God brings a very serious charge against the teaching of the prophets and priests: “They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.” The prophets and priests were telling Israel they were in a wonderful, peaceful relationship with God and telling them they had been healed when in fact it was a lie. In the medical world, if a medical doctor made a wrong diagnosis and then told a person they were healed when in fact they were deathly sick, they not only would be the target of a malpractice suit, but they would be removed from the medical profession. However, in the religious world, false teachers abound and false religions prevail and not only are these tolerated, they are flaunted and promoted. Priests have a serious responsibility to accurately diagnose the true problem and correct it.

PRIESTS OF GOD HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DIAGNOSE VARIOUS PROBLEMS ACCURATELY AND TO DETERMINE THE TRUE SOLUTION SO THAT ONE WHO WORSHIPS GOD MAY BE CLEAN .

Disease is often a metaphor for sin. It is not always due to sin, but it is often used to illustrate sin (Ps. 38:3, 5, 7, 18).

DIAGNOSTIC SECTION #1 – The diagnosis of skin eruptions. **13:1-8**

In **verse 2**, we see there are three infant stage symptoms of a skin disease: 1) swelling; 2) scab or rash; 3) bright spot. These symptoms actually cover a variety of possible diseases, not just leprosy (Hansen’s disease).

(Step #1) - The man with the skin disease was brought to the priest . **12:2a**

(Step #2) - The priest examined the mark on his body. **13:3a** – Must have and ascertain the facts before any judgment may be made.

(Step #3) - If hair on the skin problem is white and the sore was below the surface, he was to be declared ceremonially unclean. **13:3c**

(Step #4) - If the sore is on the surface of the skin and the hair not white, the priest was to isolate the person for seven days. **13:4**

(Step #5) - The priest was to examine him seven days later to see if the situation had changed and if it hadn’t, the person was isolated another seven days. **13:5**

(Step #6) - If after the second isolation the skin eruption has become colorless, the priest is to pronounce a person clean and clothes are to be washed. **13:6**

(Step #7) - If the infection spreads after being pronounced clean, he must appear before the priest again and be pronounced unclean . **13:7-8**

When you and I sin, we must go to the priest and pronounce ourselves unclean. God will be watching us and if the sin festers again, we must go back and go through the process all over. The cleansing must be complete and the clothes must be righteous.

DIAGNOSTIC SECTION #2 – The diagnosis of chronic skin disease. **13:9-7**

When a man had an infectious skin disease characterized by swelling, white hair and raw flesh (**13:10**), the following steps were to be taken:

(Step #1) - He was to be brought to the priest for examination. **13:9**

(Step #2) - The priest is to carefully examine the problem and give proper diagnosis. **13:10a**

(Step #3) - If the disease includes white swelling in the skin, white hair and raw flesh, the priest is to pronounce the man unclean. **13:10b-11**

(Step #4) - If the skin problem spreads all over the body, the priest is to look to see if the whole body is white and if so he is to pronounce the man clean. **13:12-13**

(Step #5) - If the skin problem contains raw flesh, not healed white, the priest shall pronounce him unclean. **13:14-15**

(Step #6) - If the raw flesh ever turns white, he is to come to the priest and the priest is to pronounce him clean. **13:16-17**

Ladies and gentlemen, do we not see in this that there is to be a surgical analysis that takes place when God's people gather. We are to have surgical preaching and the surgical preaching is to expose the disease and the sin so that we may be clean.

DIAGNOSTIC SECTION #3 – The diagnosis of boils and infectious skin disease. **13:18-23**

(Step #1) - The person was to be brought to the priest. **13:19**

(Step #2) - The priest was to look carefully at the problem. **13:20a**

(Step #3) - If the boil appears to be in the skin, the priest is to pronounce him unclean. **13:20b**

(Step #4) - If the boil does not appear to be in the skin, he shall isolate the person seven days. **13:21**

(Step #5) - If the boil spreads farther on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him unclean. **13:22**

(Step #6) - If the boil does not spread, the priest shall pronounce him clean. **13:23**

DIAGNOSTIC SECTION #4 – The diagnosis of burns and infectious skin diseases. **13:24-28**

(Step #1) - The person was to be brought to the priest for assessment. **13:24-25**

(Step #2) - If the burned flesh is a bright reddish white or white, the priest is to look at the hair in the spot and if it is not white hair, then he is to be isolated for seven days. **13:26**

(Step #3) - If the color of the flesh spreads, the priest shall pronounce him unclean. **13:27**

(Step #4) - If the bright spot does not spread, he shall be pronounced clean. **13:28**

Disease is often used in Scripture as a metaphor of sin—Ps. 147:3; Is. 1:5-6; Jer. 8:2; 30:12; Mk. 2:17. Healing of sin only comes through Jesus Christ—with His stripes we are healed (Is. 53:5).

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1. Priests have a responsibility to accurately diagnose the real sin problem.**
- 2. Priests need to pay close attention to areas of life that have been infected by sin.**
- 3. Holiness demands honest evaluation and elimination.**
- 4. One may only become clean by declaration of “The Priest.”**