

Intro:

Main Point of Text: The ceremonial laws regarding leprosy had people come to the priests to make a spiritual prognosis.

Sermon Point: *Come Clean to Keep Clean.*

Move 1: Unrepentant sin will plague you.

Leprosy is called a plague throughout the chapter. Ex. 9:8-12: one of the plagues was boils on the Egyptians. Deut. 28:27, 58-60: God said He would bring plagues of the same Egyptian diseases on Israel if they disobeyed His commands. WCF 19:3: no longer a cultic ritual for God's people, these diseases no longer likely exist (Calvin). Pointing to the spiritual problem of sin and its deadening effects. Warns of God's eternal death punishment on all who are not truly His people. Warns of His temporal displeasure on His disobedient people. Ask Miriam/Gehazi.

Move 2: The longer you do not deal with your sin, the deeper it goes and the wider it spreads.

Various tests of the various leprous plagues determine whether it is only skin-deep or deep under the skin. Warning to check early signs, keep it from later stages that become deeper problems that take over the body. Goal: catch before beyond care. Sin is like leprosy. Don't mess around/let it linger! Don't let impurity spread. Titus 1:15. If in danger, quarantine (shut out seven days). If contained, still wash. Contaminated clothes must be burned. Sin is described as a leprous plague and punishment from God in Ps. 38:3-8. Christ to the Church: Rev. 3:3-4.

Move 3: If you do not repent of your sin, its plagues could keep you from clean convocation.

Test of "clean/unclean": whether someone can stay with their Holy God/His holy people: Vss. 45-46. Life outside the camp! Sin corrupts and contaminates. Even it's breath (speech). So the priest/minister are required to purge out unclean leaven (1 Cor. 5:6-8). Like heaven: Rev. 21:27; 22:1-16. Eph. 2:1. Vss. 45-46 emblematic of 2 Cor. 7:10: Godly sorrow works repentance to save your souls. Otherwise, J. Gill, Vs. 59, priest to declare free of leprosy/allowed to stay in, *or* infected/to dispose of it.

Move 4: Seek out pastoral counseling to confess what plagues you and to partake in purity.
Vs. 1-2, 59. When you notice a problem, take it to the priest/minister for him to make a prognosis, “pronounce clean/unclean”. Preaching in worship previously, here Biblical counseling in life. Part of minister’s full time job. Priest’s/Pastor’s diagnostic manual: the WORD! Most problems are spiritual. Most symptoms are rooted in sin. A minister often has to help people confess sin/not minimize what the symptoms indicate. Also often has to help people not make mountains out of molehills. But if fruit of symptoms Biblically point to the root of a dark/dirty heart, need confession. Isa. 6:33; Lk. 4:27; Lk. 17:12-14. James 5:14-16 Romans 15:14. Notice corporate responsibility/priesthood of all believers in vs. 2, “he shall be brought”. Jude 23. How counsel? 2 Tim. 3:16-17. 2 Pet. 1:3.

Conclusion:

Ps. 51:10-12.

Come Clean to Keep Clean.