

## Leviticus Chapter 15

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- Commendation; commitment to God's Word, students of the Word in its totality!
- This chapter deals with various hygienic laws.
- Honestly there are certain chapters of the Bible from which I wouldn't necessarily choose to teach or preach.
- This is one of them, because it deals with things of a personal nature, and can be a bit embarrassing at the onset. I don't really want to stand up here and talk about women's menstrual cycles!
- I'm naturally prone to being rather prudish, and sensitive to personal issues: yet when it's all said and done I want to be able to testify that I've given you the whole counsel of God – not just the easy parts.

Three things are driving this study at the moment:

- First: I make no apologies for God's word, it is what it is, it is good, it is Holy, righteous, and true.

**2 Peter 1:2-3** <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

**Acts 20:27-28** <sup>27</sup>For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchase with His own blood."

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- Looking back over the last couple of chapters, Leviticus chapters 13-14 dealing with leprosy, an analogy of sin – sin that is obvious, even though it is more than skin deep, it is external, easy to see, in a sense public.
  - Here we deal with un-cleanness that is much more private, less detectable, easier to conceal or hide from others.
  - In some ways these can be more dangerous, because we are less prone to dealing with them.

**Psalms 19:12** "... cleanse thou me from secret faults."

**Psalms 51:6** "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

V: 1-2 If a person has a running sore, or possibly a staff type infection – something beyond the run of the mill infection.

- Issue: (H2100) zuwb, zoob - repetitive word 24 X's – discharge, flow, or to gush.
- Some believe that this may refer to a venereal disease of some type because one of the symptoms of Gonorrhea is the emission or discharge of fluids from the male.
- This pretty much covers everything from diarrhea to venereal disease.
- If this were the case we might think – how does this apply to us? “I don’t have VD.”

**Matthew 5: 27-28** “<sup>27</sup>Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery: <sup>28</sup>But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Heart issues.

Were all pretty much in the same boat:

**Romans 7:18** “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- Sometimes this defiling issue or flow isn’t what we think: sometimes the open running sore that we need to look out for is someone’s mouth:

**2 Timothy 2:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup>And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;”

**2 Peter 2:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup>And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup>For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, un holy, <sup>3</sup>without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

- Why? Because these things, these people will make you unclean.

Jesus teaches us:

**Matthew 15:11 & 18** “<sup>11</sup>Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.” – “<sup>18</sup>But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile a man.”

V: 3-7 God is requiring them to be very careful and cautious about prevention and avoiding contamination.

- They were not to touch that person or a bed or chair whereon the infected person had laid or sat upon.

V: 5 “Wash” or washed 12 times in this chapter, and “bathe in water” 12X’s.

- Balance / issue 24 X’s; symmetry: AB-BA
- If they did touch these things they were to wash their clothes, bathe themselves, and be unclean until the next day.

**Wash:** (H3526) kabac, kaw-bas'; speaking typically of washing clothes which was to trample; hence to wash by stamping with the feet.

**Bathe:** (H7364) rachats, raw-khats'; to bathe or wash a person, to bathe a whole or part of the body in water, washing one's self.

- God's word consistently shows us how this is accomplished:

**Psalm 119:9** “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

**Ephesians 5:26** “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

**John 15:3** “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

- God's word is to be the cleansing agent in our lives, and it is effective on the inside as much as on the outside.
- God's word has that purifying effect in our lives

V: 8 This sounds like a willful act of ejecting or expectorating one's own saliva onto another person.

- Could be from exclamatory speech, or sneezing?

V: 9-10 If the one with the running sore has sat upon a saddle, it is unclean. Anyone who bears, or carries any these things that were under the sick person is required to wash his clothes, bathe, and be unclean until the next day.

V: 11 Previously in V: 7 if anyone touches the flesh of the one who has the running sore they become unclean and need to wash their clothes, take a bath, and be unclean until the next day.

- Here if the one with the running sore reaches out touches someone else and has not washed his hands first, then the person he touches becomes unclean, and has to wash their clothes, take a bath, and remain unclean until the next day.
- This is the first time that it is described, that if a person does wash their hands, this is then a preventative measure, and the person touched is still clean – excluding all the previous conditions.

V: 12 An earthen vessel is defiled when touched by someone with an issue, and it must be broken, destroyed.

- We need to be careful who or what touches our lives:

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Be not deceived: evil communications / company corrupts good manners / habits.” KJV / NKJV

- A wooden vessel can be rinsed with water.
- Our lives, our bodies are often compared to that of an earthen vessel, a clay jar:

Paul, speaking of the gift of the Holy Spirit:

**2 Corinthians 4:7** “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,...”

Peter referred to wives, women:

**2 Peter 3:7** “... as unto the weaker vessel,...”

Speaking of sexual purity and self control; Paul said:

**1 Thessalonians 4:4** “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”

- We are those earthen vessels, and when sin; uncleanness of any kind enters the picture the result is brokenness.

**Psalms 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

V: 13 When he is cleansed, when he is clean:

- That can only happen through Jesus:

We need to be washed by Jesus:

**John 13:8** “If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me.”

- Seven days: 7 speaks of completeness.

V: 14-15 8<sup>th</sup> day speaks of a new beginning.

- The person, once healed, when free from infection, sinless was to appear before the Lord personally.

**Habakkuk 1:13** “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:...”

- Presenting two clean birds:
    1. For the sin offering – always need to deal with the sin first.
    2. Secondly, the burnt offering; dedicating, or in this case re-dedicating their lives to the Lord.
  - Result: atonement. “At one ment” – “kofar” – covered, temporarily until the permanent sacrifice of Jesus.
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V: 16-18 Deals with the discharge of or ejaculation and or contact with the seed of copulation or semen.

- Notice that while there is a washing of the clothes, and a bathing of the person, there is no sin offering.
- Because this type of discharge is natural and right in the context of marriage, there is no need for a sin offering

**Hebrews 13:4** “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

- Due to the original sin and our own sin nature, we are tainted and unclean, thus the need for a bath.
- Another unstated aspect of this scripture is that a man must exercise self control even in this most intimate relationship.
- Knowing that as an example, sexual intercourse would make the husband and wife ceremonial unclean for a day, they might have to forgo or control their desires in lieu of religious service to the Lord or in going out to war or some other circumstance that would preclude their time together.
- We see this demonstrated back in Exodus as Moses was told to prepare the people to meet with God.

**Exodus 19:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup>And he said unto the people, be ready against the third day; come not at your wives.”

- Nadab and Abihu pretty well demonstrated the need to approach God in the right way, on His terms.
  - There is never, even in a marriage relationship a complete giving over to lust or wanton behavior.
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V: 19-24 Speaks of the periodic uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual cycle.

- Again because this is a normal part of life and no sin is involved, there is no sacrifice for sin. But there is a ceremonial un-cleanness that is addressed.
- When God wanted us to understand our own depravity or uncleanness, how He views our righteousness, He uses this as an illustration:

**Isaiah 64:6** “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Looking ahead to - God adds to or clarifies verse 24:

**Leviticus 18:19** “Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.”

**Leviticus 20:18** “And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.”

- Here God directs that during this time, a man is to be careful with his wife and to make allowances for condition.
  - This isn't so much intended as a restriction as it is to have a renewing effect.
  - God created sexual intimacy in the confines of marriage for both pleasure and procreation, but even the most pleasant things can become bondage or even torture if exercised without some degree of discipline or self control.
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V: 25-30 This doesn't address the normal menstrual cycle, but with a different uncleanness, possibly a sexually transmitted disease, as indicated by the need for a sin offering at the end of it.

V: 26-27 While all of this would have been uncomfortable for any woman, this would have been particularly difficult for a Jewish woman.

1. Ceremonially unclean.
2. Unable to go into the Tabernacle or Temple.
3. Restricted in what she could do publicly and socially.

V: 28 Once 7 days had passed in which she had no issue, then she would be declared clean.

V: 29-30 Again the 8<sup>th</sup> day speaking of a new beginning.

- Unlike the man, she herself was not presented before the Lord at the door of the Tabernacle, but her sacrifice was.
- Presenting two clean birds:
  1. For the sin offering – always need to deal with the sin first.
  2. Secondly, the burnt offering; dedicating, or in this case re-dedicating their lives to the Lord.
- Result: atonement. “At one ment” – “kofar” – covered, temporarily until the permanent sacrifice of Jesus.

V: 31-33 In summary of the man or woman with an issue, whether naturally occurring or by sin – if not dealt with properly would either bring death to the individual or defile the Tabernacle, and ultimately the nation.

- While there is definitely direct application in terms of hygiene; washing, bathing, etc.
- There is that overriding need to acknowledge the need for spiritual cleanliness which brings us back to the theme of this book – which is a call to personal holiness, our sanctification.

**Leviticus 11:45** “For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

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**Mark 5:25-34** 12 years, dying – she reached out, she dared to touch – but Jesus is the One who healed!

(Matthew 9:20-22 Luke 8:41-48)

**Mark 5:34** “And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.”

1. Daughter: relationship, personal relationship.
2. Made thee whole: salvation.
3. Go in peace – the peace of God because she had made peace with God.