

Sick Garments in Diseased Houses

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Leviticus 13-14.
- B. With decisions, it helps to get guidelines.
- C. The selective eating of foods has a counterpart with the spiritual life.

II. How to deal with leprosy in garments.

- A. Garments are used as a picture of character expressed in behavior.
- B. Aspects of our relationships with one another can be infected or diseased.
- C. Attitudes or resentments can come out in our relationships.
- D. Judgments were not to be hasty--the garment was to be shut up for seven days symbolizing the necessity of exposing things to the Word.
- E. If there is something harmful about the relationship, it is to be destroyed as the garment was to be destroyed.
- F. If the garment was not unclean, it could be washed, which symbolizes a relationship being cleansed by the Word.

III. The cleansing of a leper.

- A. Healing is something God does. The only thing a person can do who is affected by sin is go to God for healing.
- B. After healing, cleansing is needed which symbolizes behavioral adjustment.
- C. The basis for healing is always blood, particularly the death of Christ that ends the old life.
- D. Man's beauty, insignificance and search for status is set aside and is dipped in the blood--the healing of our "leprosy" is dependent upon the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- E. The offerings.
 - 1. The trespass offering--a relationship has been broken that needs to be dealt with first.
 - 2. The sin offering--this deals with the very nature of man that must be dealt with.
 - 3. The burnt offering--this recognizes the devotion of a heart that has been cleansed.
 - 4. The meal offering-- this is the presentation of our humanity.

F. One never falls into "leprosy" without having listened to evil, manipulating with it, and walking with it. The blood of the guilt offering cleanses this, and these instruments are to be yielded to the Spirit.

IV. Leprosy in houses.

A. The church is the house of God.

B. Affected stones need to be taken out and purified in order to be restored, which symbolizes discipline within the church.

C. God breaks the house down if man will not.

D. We are to be whole because God is a whole person.

Application questions:

1. How does this passage show that we are to be careful with our judgments towards others?

2. In what ways does God bring healing to the person affected by sin?

3. How does this passage affect your view of God's holiness? Explain.
