

a running issue out of his flesh

15:1 – 15 Leviticus

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has endured two long, dry and dusty chapters concerning the matter of leprosy. Our previous two reports were all bad; but it gets worse in this report as this chapter deals with the subject of running issues. It's interesting to me that God speaks to Moses and Aaron sometimes; and sometimes just to Moses – but never just to Aaron! In chapter thirteen, God spoke to Moses and Aaron; and then, in chapter fourteen, God only spoke to Moses. Most of the time, God tells Moses to tell Aaron the message. Well, Aaron, as a high priest, is a prophetic picture of our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ Who alone can give comfort and understanding to the afflicted as well as extend mercy and grace and compassion to the ignorant. We should thank God that He will speak directly to us today from His Word, yet not thoroughly condemn us under the law while doing so....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When any man hath a running issue out of his flesh, because of his issue he is unclean.

~ What God is saying to these two brothers is not very nice, actually. This description reveals the repulsive pollution known as secret sin! We hear a lot about the pollution of the environment - but not much about the pollution of our minds, souls and entire fleshly bodies by our secret sins. The open sore is highly contagious, highly susceptible to infection from outside viruses, and this also reveals, in illustrative detail, the exceeding sinfulness of sin! Human nature is an overflowing cesspool, and it cannot be cleaned up or decontaminated. The flesh cannot be reformed. This world is nothing but a graveyard and a sewer of uncleanness. This just doesn't happen to be a very pretty picture the Lord is painting in our minds in Scripture; and our safari interpretation just happens to be highly accurate.

Not only is human nature defiled, but it is defiling; it corrupts by its very nature. We are defiled by sin, and we defile others with our sinfulness. It is both corrupt and corrupting. This leg of our safari holds the mirror up to human nature, and after one look we're going to understand that no flesh can ever glory in His sight under any circumstances. This matter of leprosy that we are so painstakingly examining is the worse physical disease imaginable to mankind - just as sin is spiritually. It would have seemed logical to me to have received instruction concerning these issues long before this point in Scripture; but we're considering things that are not done my way – they're done His way.

Leprosy is caused by tiny germs named leprosy bacilli which is visible only through a microscope. Discovered in 1873 by the Norwegian Doctor Hanson, leprosy is also commonly referred to as Hanson's disease. Leprosy is communicated from subject to subject because the number of bacilli in the skin is in very large number; easily passing from the skin of infected people - via skin-to-skin contact - to other people very easily. The smallest wound or abrasion can allow the disease into a healthy person; but only people with large amounts of the bacilli are able to spread the disease to others. The only prevention is frequent bathing and good hygiene, washing your clothes and keeping a clean house. Imagine that! These are actually the literal words of a great doctor from the past. Most communicable aspects of leprosy can easily be washed away with regular cleaning before they have a chance to enter the skin. It is avoiding bodily contact that is most important to prevent this infectious disease; thus, the purpose of the law that put the diseased man outside of the camp altogether.

You won't keep your leprosy a secret for long, either, friends! Others already see the sore spot breaking out – you are the only one in denial! It might even begin slowly, but one day it will finally present with a vengeance. Running issues might be kept secret for a long time - but not forever. This all represents the thought process of a man as well as the overt act of sins. We must wash each day with the Word of God and stay clean. A few minutes of devotionals does not work to gain a correct insight of Holy Writ. Most people spend an average of forty-five minutes sprucing up the old flesh cosmetically each morning – some people take much, much

longer than that - but very few spend ANY time in the Bible daily. Well, there are one hundred sixty-eight hours in each week, so ten percent of that would be sixteen point eight hours; if you want to tithe your time. Performing a service is part of the tithe, my friends. SO, that's two point four hours each day of Bible study you owe God. How much time did you give Him today? How much time did you give God this week in sincere Bible study? If you aren't systematically in the Word of God, you are not staying clean - and you probably have leprosy breaking out all over your body right now!

From the very beginning, God saw the wickedness of man was exceedingly great and horrible in the earth, and that every imagination we have as natural humans are only evil continually. We are talking about a defiled human nature; and if you don't think you have it then you won't want Jesus. There is a spiritual part of you that is filthy every time you wake up; and that part of you is in danger of breaking out in full-blown disease if you are not very careful to keep it clean every day. We're also talking about the part of our human nature that affects others around us. This is something that many have experienced; and they truly want to be cleansed and washed and to become disease free, experience fellowship with the Father once again and be well pleasing to His Son. Some people truly want to get sin out of their lives. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing? Job asked that question. David said, "... *cleanse me from my secret faults.*" Paul said, "... *for I know that in my flesh dwelleth no good thing.*" Christ does not indwell our flesh - He indwells our hearts. Those who worship God must do so in Spirit and in Truth.

So, we have the hidden nature of mankind exposed in our Spiritual Safari today! Perhaps no one is aware of what you are doing; but it's more likely others suspect you. Secret sins can be passed onto others indirectly, too - just by our attitude. We're talking about the things that we know deep down in our hearts! Say, this gets a little personal, doesn't it? Gerde said, "... *I see no fault committed by any man that I, myself, might not have committed.*" Some people regard him as the greatest thinker that has ever lived. I do not agree with that, but it doesn't matter. Dr. Samuel Johnson remarked, "... *every man knows that of himself the things he dares not tell his dearest friend.*" Another famous quote would be, "... *I know not the*

heart of a villain; I know only the heart of a virtuous man, and that heart is frightful.” Shakespeare wrote, “.... go to your own bosom, knock there, and ask your own heart what it doth know.” One astutely pagan Roman observes, “.... why is there no man that confesses his vices?” The answer, of course, is, “....because he has not yet desired to lay them aside.”

Only a waking and conscience man can tell his dreams. The man that won't confess his sins is like the man that is still dreaming. Let's wake up and get into a sincere and correct Bible study in reality, shall we? The effect of sin has even harmed man's propagation of the human race. A careful examination of these awful running issues reveals they are directly connected with the generative organs of the anatomy. These are very definitely social diseases; they are deadly, virulent and prevalent. This is much more egregious than common leprosy. It is made very clear for us now that the curse of sin has moved right down into our body of flesh and has permeated it. David cried out, *“.... purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean!”* Let's pray that God will create in us a clean heart and renew our spirit within to be right with Him in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a particular filthiness of iniquity and a dehumanizing defilement connected with sexual sins that is utterly abominable and appalling. Interestingly, in our so-called new morality, the same old diseases continue to appear time and time again! Mutating variations of sexually transmitted social diseases are increasing at an alarming rate; but they are still the same old diseases, to be sure; morphed from sickly viruses and infections to killers that now bring painful, awful, horrible death! Even in this country, there are areas of the nation where sexually transmitted diseases are at epidemic proportion. For the believer, this sin absolutely robs a person of the joy of their salvation.

Most people don't care for such a repulsive subject as this. You're not going to hear this stuff as a sermon in a mainstream church today, I promise you that; and we're just getting started. God is going to supply us with an excruciatingly exhaustive and intense view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin as we move along! We are getting a remarkable view in Leviticus. Paul said, *“.... whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our*

learning.” Only through patience and comfort of the Scriptures do we have any hope at all.

Today, we have a Great High Priest that ever lives in Heaven to make intercession for us. Christ understands the feelings of our infirmities. Christ was tempted in all things as we are, yet He was without sin. Christ won't be taking your sins upon Him on the cross again and, coming up next, we have some very vivid language that brings into the light how offensive, how disgusting and how obscene, impure and repugnant and utterly corrupt this human nature that He died once for all for really is. We see it all around us - and it's disgusting. Don't think you can converse with even the most insignificant people in the world, and it does not affect your life. Human nature is not only corrupt it is corrupting. If you and I meet, we will influence each other very definitely. It simply cannot be otherwise. You are a preacher whether you know it or not! You give sermons just by the way you live your life. We have already examined those things the Lord Jesus says comes forth from our natural human hearts. Let's recapitulate them: evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; these are the things that defile a man.

It amazes me today how many people have a ritual and a ceremony they keep several times per week and yet their hearts are just as filthy as a heart can possibly be! Every one of us have that type of heart and unless it's been cleansed by the blood of Christ then these thoughts are all you have. Every man is tempted when he is drawn away in his own lust and enticed; then, when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin. And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death! Paul knew that within his natural flesh dwelleth no good thing! Your sores of sinfulness may be highly visible - or it may be invisible – and it may just be lying dormant. Most likely, it's oozing and is a stinking offense to everyone that comes near you. This Spiritual Safari is NOT for the beautiful people, my dear readers. Secret sins are in view here as David said, “... *behold, Thou desiredst truth in the inward parts and in the hidden parts Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*”

A correct understanding of this passage should bring the proud religious man down to the very bottom; but it rarely does. Of course, the problem is not with the Word of God, the problem is in the heart of the hearer. Again,

they just won't believe they are a sinner. They will believe in God but not that sin stuff – so – so confused are they! They will just not admit how disgusting they truly are in the light of the presence of God. This should give us a new slant on how we appear to a righteous God because I've never heard this taught this way before - ever. David says, “.... *against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*” Again and again, we have this type of thing. Ezekiel said that God says, “.... *I passed by thee and saw thee polluted...thy father was an Amorite and thy mother a Hittite.*” Isaiah says, “.... *but your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have caused Him to hide His Face from you and He will not hear you.*” Both prophets spoke to God's chosen people, my beloved....

3 And this shall be his uncleanness in his issue: whether his flesh run with his issue or his flesh be stopped from his issue, it is his uncleanness.

4 Every bed, whereon he lieth that hath the issue, is unclean: and every thing, whereon he sitteth, shall be unclean.

5 And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

6 And he that sitteth on any thing whereon he sat that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

7 And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

8 And if he that hath the issue spit upon him that is clean; then he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

9 And what saddle soever he rideth upon that hath the issue shall be unclean.

10 And whosoever toucheth any thing that was under him shall be unclean until the even: and he that beareth any of those things shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

11 And whomsoever he toucheth that hath the issue, and hath not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

12 And the vessel of earth, that he toucheth which hath the issue, shall be broken: and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water.

13 And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean.

14 And on the eighth day he shall take to him two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, and come before the LORD unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and give them unto the priest:

15 And the priest shall offer them, the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD for his issue.

~ You see, friends, everything we see, hear, touch, taste, smell, and stand or sit on, God is deeply concerned about; every seemingly insignificant aspect of our daily lives is a detailed event with God! He does it this way because He cares about us. God's laws reach into every single area of the life of a believer. He even holds us while we are asleep.

The man with an unclean issue contaminated the very bed on which he slept. Even his dreams are impure. How many of you spend sleepless nights counting sins instead of sheep? How much do you obsess over that lustful pleasure you cherish and cling to? God is not only interested in what you think - He already knows what you think. He searches your heart as you lie upon your pillow. God wants to control your thought life today. Only then can He love and bless others through you.

Do you meditate on those things that are good and true and honest and just – or do you just quote a few disconnected verses from fractured passages of Scripture into abject meaninglessness? Do you make a good report – do you make a report at all? Is there REALLY any virtue in you? What are you doing to support getting the Word of God to the entire sick, festering and dying world? Is there honestly any praise of God in your life; and do you truly think on the things of Christ as you go about your day-to-day activities? God just happens to be interested in His children; you can thank Him for that! God is interested in everything you do, friends.

What this boils down to is confession, and we should keep ours very up to date with God; confessing everything in detail as it happens, if we can! We all come short of the glory of God, and we have all sinned, friends. It's these running issues and hidden sins that are so difficult to deal with. This chapter just gets downright nasty as it speaks of spitting on people and the lowest level of living imaginable to mankind. Just being in the company of many people makes me feel unclean all over. Some people's presence makes me want to take a bath!

The only way you will keep clean is to wash in the Word of God regularly - daily, to be sure. I'm not sure why so many so-called Christians want to argue about that! I only know they do. If Christ doesn't wash you then you have no part with Him. Christ only washes us in His Word, friends. I cannot make this any clearer. Do you want fellowship with the Father? – Then get clean in the Word of God which He hath spoken to you! His Word is truth – not what you think or guess at or dream or make up. The water and the blood were BOTH used for cleansing. That means the Holy Spirit must apply the sacrifice of Christ through Holy Writ to our hidden sins. What a remarkable picture we have been given of our personal defilement and the contamination of others by our secret sins ~
