

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Group Bible Study 8

VERSES TO READ:

1 John 1:7-9

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 24:16

16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Psalms 51:2

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And from my sin cleanse me.

Read Leviticus 5:1-4,6-8,11,15-16; 11.

DISCOVERY PORTION:

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRESPASS OFFERING

In talking about sin, many people do not realize that there is a great difference between sin and sins. Sin is a matter of indwelling sin as the nature of Satan within us. Sins are a matter of outward sinful deeds. The sin offering deals with sin, and the trespass offering deals with sins, transgressions, and trespasses, including lies, mistakes, and all kinds of wrongdoing.

The trespass offering signifies Christ as our offering resolving the problem of sins in our conduct. We may use a fruit tree to illustrate inward sin, not being for God, and trespasses. A fruit tree needs a proper atmosphere and environment in which to grow. When a fruit tree grows in such an atmosphere and environment, fruit is produced. In this illustration the inward sin is the fruit tree, not loving God and not living for Him make up the atmosphere and environment in which the tree grows, and trespasses and transgressions are the fruit.

ITEMS THAT NEED THE TRESPASS OFFERING

Leviticus 5 speaks of some particular items that need the trespass offering so that

God's people can live a holy, clean, and rejoicing life.

- A. To fail to testify to the truth concerning what we know is to be dishonest and unfaithful, unlike our God, who is faithful and honest; this actually deals with lying, which involves Satan, the father of lies.
- B. To touch the uncleanness of spiritual death is the most serious thing in the eyes of God—Lev. 5:2. If we are to live a holy life separated from death, we need to exercise care concerning our contact with people.
- C. To speak rashly before God, expressing our opinion in a hasty, careless, and reckless way, indicates that we do not live for God and do not fear God—Lev. 5:4.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE DEPICTED IN LEVITICUS 11

Beasts That Divide the Hoof and Chew the Cud

Beasts that divide the hoof and chew the cud signify persons who have discernment in their activities and who receive the word of God with much reconsideration. Such a person cannot discern what things are of God and what things are of Satan, what

things are heavenly and what things are earthly, what things are spiritual and what things are fleshly. Let us use as an illustration the difference between going to a theater and going to a church meeting. To go to a theater is to do something earthly, but to go to a church meeting is to do something heavenly. However, to a person, even a Christian, who does not have divided hooves there is little difference between going to a theater and going to a church meeting. Such a person lacks discernment in his activities. In his activities he does not have the discerning ability. We should be careful in contacting this kind of person, for contact with him may defile us. We need to have divided hooves, the ability and strength to discern what is of God and what is not of God, what we should do and what we should not do.

Aquatic Animals Having Fins and Scales

Aquatic animals having fins and scales signify persons who can move and act freely in the world and at the same time resist its influence. Fins help fish to move, to act, in water according to their wishes. Because they have fins, fish may even swim against the current. Scales protect the fish and keep those fish which live in salt water from being salted. In the Bible, the sea signifies the

fallen, corrupted world. The whole world today is a vast sea, and many of those living in this sea do not have fins or scales. They cannot move freely in the world and at the same time resist its influence. As believers in Christ, we should have fins and scales and therefore be able to act freely in the sea of the world without being salted by it.

On the one hand, we should have fins and scales. On the other hand, we should be careful in contacting those who do not have fins and scales. Be careful of friends, neighbors, and even relatives who do not have fins and scales.

Birds That Have Wings for Flying and That Eat Seeds of Life as Their Food Supply

Birds that have wings for flying and that eat seeds of life as the food supply signify persons who can live and move in a life that is away from and above the world and who take things of life as their supply of life. Because clean birds have wings for flying, they are able to fly away from and above the world. Also, clean birds eat seeds of life as their food supply. On the contrary, the unclean birds in Lev. 11:13-19 do not feed on seeds. Because the seeds of life do not satisfy them, these unclean birds feed on carcasses.

We Christians should be like birds that have wings and that feed on the seeds of life. This means that we should live and move in a life that is away from and above the world and that we should take the things of life as our supply of life. If we have contact with unclean birds, we shall be influenced by their taste and eventually that will turn us into an unclean bird.

Insects Having Wings and Having Jointed Legs above Their Feet for Leaping on the Ground

Insects having wings and having jointed legs above their feet for leaping on the ground signify persons who can live and move in a life that is above the world and who can keep themselves from the world. If we are the kind of persons signified by these insects, we shall have wings for flying away from anything worldly, sinful, or fleshly. This means that we are able to leave the world at any time, either by flying or by jumping. We Christians are those who can jump and fly. However, those without wings and jointed legs cannot leave the world at all. They can only stand on the earth and remain in the world.

If we are to live a holy life, we need to consider the kind of people we are contacting.