

The Book of Leviticus
Instructions for the Priestly Ministry
Leviticus 21:1-24 (page 83)

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Those whom God had set apart for spiritual service were not to defile themselves in mourning or by entering unholy marriages (Lev 21:1-15)

- The laws applied to ordinary priests (vs 1-9)
 - Uncleaness in times of bereavement (vs 1-6)
 - Maintaining purity in the marriage covenant (vs 7-8)
 - Maintaining purity in the family (v 9)
- The laws applied to the high priest (vs 10-15)
 - He was not defile himself in mourning in any way (vs 10-12)
 - He was to be pure in marriage (vs 13-15)

Those who minister before the Lord must be approved to perform their duties (Lev 21:16-24)

- Priests with defects:
 - could not offer bread in the tabernacle (vs 16-20)
 - could not offer sacrifices by fire, but could eat the holy food (vs 21-24)

What does Leviticus 21 mean for us today?

- The priesthood of the family of Aaron is a symbolic picture of our priestly ministry as followers of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10)
 - Our priesthood is by new birth (John 3:3,7; Titus 3:4-5; 1 Peter 1:3, 23)
 - Our ministry is basically the same (Lev 21:6; John 6:35; Matt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 1:21-24; 9:16; 15:3-8)
 - We are to keep uncontaminated from the world (1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Cor 10:6-7)
 - We are not to participate in immorality (1 Cor 6:18; 10:8; Eph 5:3; 1 Thess 4:3-5)
 - We are to examine ourselves to remain qualified to serve the Lord (1 Cor 11:28; 2 Cor 13:5; Psalm 26:2; 139:23-24)

Seeing Jesus in Leviticus 21....

- As own Great High Priest, Jesus :
 - was uncontaminated by sin and the world (Heb 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5)
 - reflected order and wholeness (John 2:13-17; 8:45-47; Matt 26:52-56; Luke 23:34,43, 46)
 - was totally committed to doing the will of God (Lk 2:49; Jn 2:4; 6:38; Mk 3:31-35; Matt 26:39; Heb 10:7-9)
 - has an unblemished and pure marriage (Eph 5:25-27; Rev 19:7; 21:9)