

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

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Frank Mascaro

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)