

## **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

### **Bible Study Notes**

**6-16-21**

### **Leviticus 22**

#### **The Need For Ceremonial Purity - Verses 1-3**

The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings the Israelites consecrate to me, so they will not profane my holy name. I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> "Say to them: 'For the generations to come, if any of your descendants is ceremonially unclean and yet comes near the sacred offerings that the Israelites consecrate to the LORD, that person must be cut off from my presence. I am the LORD.

**22:1-3** Who Goes Near The Holy Things Which The Children Of Israel Dedicate To The LORD, While He Has Uncleanness Upon Him, That Person Shall Be Cut Off: Because The Old Covenant Was A Covenant Of Shadows And Types, Pointing To The Glory Of The New Covenant (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 8:4-5; 10:1), The Idea That A Priest Could Not Minister In A Ceremonially Defiled (Unclean) State Was Important. Israel Needed To Know That Drawing Close To God Was To Be Pure.

#### **Examples Of Things That Might Defile A Priest - Verses 4-9**

<sup>4</sup> "If a descendant of Aaron has a defiling skin disease or a bodily discharge, he may not eat the sacred offerings until he is cleansed. He will also be unclean if he touches something defiled by a corpse or by anyone who has an emission of semen, <sup>5</sup> or if he touches any crawling thing that makes him unclean, or any person who makes him unclean, whatever the uncleanness may be. <sup>6</sup> The one who touches any such thing will be unclean till evening. He must not eat any of the sacred offerings unless he has bathed himself with water. <sup>7</sup> When the sun goes down, he will be clean, and after that he may eat the sacred offerings, for they are his food. <sup>8</sup> He must not eat anything found dead or torn by wild animals, and so become unclean through it. I am the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "The priests are to perform my service in such a way that they do not become guilty and die for treating it with contempt. I am the LORD, who makes them holy.

**22:4-6** And when the sun goes down he shall be clean. The Jews start their days at sundown, not sunrise or midnight. With this description, God indicates that one can start the new day clean and pure to the LORD. No matter how we might have failed the day before, we can begin each new day pure and close to the LORD. His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23).

**22:4-9** Why were there so many specific guidelines for the priests? The Israelites would have been quite familiar with priests from Egypt. Egyptian priests were mainly interested in politics. They viewed religion as a way to gain power. Thus, the Israelites would have been suspicious of the establishment of a new priestly order. But God wanted his priests to serve him and the people. Their duties were religious—to help people draw near to God and worship him. They could not use

their position to gain power because they were not allowed to own land or take money from anyone. All these guidelines reassured the people and helped the priests accomplish their purpose.

### **Only The Priest And His Household Could Eat Of The Offering - Verses 10-13**

<sup>10</sup> "No one outside a priest's family may eat the sacred offering, nor may the guest of a priest or his hired worker eat it. <sup>11</sup> But if a priest buys a slave with money, or if slaves are born in his household, they may eat his food. <sup>12</sup> If a priest's daughter marries anyone other than a priest, she may not eat any of the sacred contributions. <sup>13</sup> But if a priest's daughter becomes a widow or is divorced, yet has no children, and she returns to live in her father's household as in her youth, she may eat her father's food. No unauthorized person, however, may eat it.

**22:11** If the priest buys a person with his money, they may eat of the offering: This means that a slave in the household of a priest could eat of the holy things, if the slave was purchased or born in his household. A hired servant (a temporary worker) was not considered part of the priest's household and therefore could not eat of the sacred offering.

### **Only The Priest And His Household Could Eat Of The Offering - Verses 14-16**

<sup>14</sup> "Anyone who eats a sacred offering by mistake must make restitution to the priest for the offering and add a fifth of the value to it. <sup>15</sup> The priests must not desecrate the sacred offerings the Israelites present to the LORD <sup>16</sup> by allowing them to eat the sacred offerings and so bring upon them guilt requiring payment. I am the LORD, who makes them holy."

**22:16** For I the LORD sanctify them: This shows why the offerings had to be regarded with special care. These offerings were specially sanctified by the LORD.

### **Unacceptable Sacrifices - Verses 17-30**

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>18</sup> "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'If any of you—whether an Israelite or a foreigner residing in Israel—presents a gift for a burnt offering to the LORD, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, <sup>19</sup> you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. <sup>20</sup> Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf. <sup>21</sup> When anyone brings from the herd or flock a fellowship offering to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without defect or blemish to be acceptable. <sup>22</sup> Do not offer to the LORD the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as a food offering presented to the LORD. <sup>23</sup> You may, however, present as a freewill offering an ox or a sheep that is deformed or stunted, but it will not be accepted in fulfillment of a vow. <sup>24</sup> You must not offer to the LORD an animal whose testicles are bruised, crushed, torn or cut. You must not do this in your own land, <sup>25</sup> and you must not accept such animals from the hand of a foreigner and offer them as the food of your God. They will not be accepted on your behalf, because they are deformed and have defects.'" <sup>26</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>27</sup> "When a calf, a lamb or a goat is born, it is to

remain with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as a food offering presented to the LORD. <sup>28</sup> Do not slaughter a cow or a sheep and its young on the same day. <sup>29</sup> "When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf. <sup>30</sup> It must be eaten that same day; leave none of it till morning. I am the LORD.

**22:17-30** Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer: Blemished or deformed animals were obviously unacceptable to the LORD, and the priests had a responsibility to make sure that the animals brought before them by the people were good enough to bring to the LORD. God didn't want the cast-offs from the people; He had right to their best.

Unfortunately, this practice was abused in the days of Jesus, where priests would disqualify an animal for an insignificant reason, and then require them to purchase an approved sacrificial animal at an exorbitant price (Matthew 21:12-13).

This also was a foreshadowing of Jesus, our perfect sacrifice. He was perfect in His nature as both God and man, perfect in His motive, perfect in His personality, perfect in His obedience, perfect in His sacrifice for sin on our behalf. When we give our best time, talent, and treasure to God rather than what is tarnished or common, we demonstrate the true meaning of worship and testify to God's supreme worth. What kind of quality can people see in your service and giving?

### **Summary - Verses 31-33**

<sup>31</sup> "Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD. <sup>32</sup> Do not profane my holy name, for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who made you holy <sup>33</sup> and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD."

**22:31-33** Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: God commanded Israel - and especially the priests - to keep His commandments and to honor His name because of who He is (I am the LORD), because of what He is (My holy name), because of what He is doing (I am the LORD who sanctifies you), and what He has done (who brought you out of the land of Egypt). Surely, these four things are true of the believer in relation to God today - and are each valid and important reasons for obedience.