

God makes a way for his people to be clean



Those who suffer from a serious skin disease must tear their clothing and leave their hair uncombed. They must cover their mouth and call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp.

~ Leviticus 13:45-46 (NLT) ~

A man with a serious skin disease came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the serious skin disease disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of serious skin disease. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.

~ Leviticus 11:41-48 (NLT) ~

When God gave his people the rules of how to live as his people when they were coming out from being slaves in Egypt, one of the rules was that God's people were to be "clean". God wasn't meaning they should have a bath or shower everyday and wash their clothes, but he meant that they pure and whole.

Weekly Family Devotion: Leviticus 5: Leviticus 12-15 – God makes a way for his people to be clean

As part of telling his people that they needed to be clean, God explained to them what things would make them unclean. Sometimes it was things that his people did that made them unclean, and sometimes it was things that happened to them, like getting certain skin diseases that made them unclean.

If someone or something was unclean anything it or they touched also became unclean. That meant unclean people had to stay away from everyone else.

In God's rules he also gave rules about how unclean could become clean again. Usually this meant washing and sacrificing animals before they could be clean.

But when Jesus came, everything changed.

Instead of being made unclean when he touched unclean people, Jesus actually made unclean people clean! That is amazing!

Jesus came to earth so that all of us, because all of us are unclean at times, can be made clean and be part of God's family. Jesus was the only sacrifice we need for that to happen!

So when we feel like we are not good enough for God or we have done too many bad things, we can come to Jesus, knowing he makes us clean and brings us into God's forever family.

Some questions to think about:

1. What happened to people who touched unclean people or things?
2. What happened when Jesus, the only one who is always clean, touched unclean people?
3. Why don't we need to offer sacrifices anymore to be made clean in God's eyes?
4. How does this make you feel?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus came to make us clean in your eyes. Please help us to remember to keep coming to Jesus when life is good and when life is hard.

Amen.