

What it Takes to Draw Near to God

Leviticus 21

Read Leviticus 21:1-24

Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 7:25, "**25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 10:19-21, "**19** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and having a High Priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."

Big Idea: No One Can Draw Near to God Without Perfection in Holiness

Introduction: The Context of Leviticus 21

Problem #1: A Holy God Dwelling in the Midst of an Unholy People

Solution #1: The Lord Established the Sacrificial System to Atonement for their Sins.

Problem #2 Where was God Going to Find Perfectly Holy People to Serve as Priests?

Solution #2: The Lord Established a Ritual System that Symbolized Perfection in Holiness

Main Body: Three Guidelines for the Priesthood:

1.) Limit Funerals

A.) Dead Bodies Defile and Defiled Priests Can't Draw Near

Numbers 19:11, "He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days."

B.) Pagan Practices Pollute and Polluted Priests Can't Draw Near

C.) Why Did All This Matter? Because Atonement Matters

2.) Forbid Marriages

A.) Sexual Immorality Soils, and Soiled Priests Can't Draw Near

B.) Divorce Desecrates and Desecrated Priests Can't Draw Near

C.) What Does This Have to Do With Us? Perfection in Holiness is Still Necessary to Draw Near

3.) Exclude Imperfections

A.) Priests Must be Physically Whole and Complete to Draw Near. They Must Be Free From All Physical Limitations and Deformities.

Verse 18, "For any man who has a defect shall not approach..."

Verse 23, "only he shall not go near the veil or approach the altar..."

Read verse 22

Conclusion: Choose Your Own Ending

1.) Reject a High Priest

2.) Be Your Own High Priest

3.) Trust a High Priest

Hebrews 10:19-22