

# Without The Camp

Leviticus 13:46

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**FOCAL Read Responsively** **Leviticus 13:46** All the days wherein the plague [shall be] in him **he shall be defiled; he [is] unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp [shall] his habitation [be].**

It is God's desire that people understand His Holy Word. I have stood in the pulpit and had the great honor of preaching the Word of God. But before I ever stood behind this holy desk in this sacred place I sat in the pew – just as you do – and listened with a yearning heart to the preacher. The best preacher is the one who is gifted by God to make the message understandable to even the youngest heart in the crowd. I have heard some good preachers in my day, but I have also heard some poor preachers. I have heard boring preachers who were dry as dust, people who starved the sheep because of their sad delivery. I have heard wandering preachers who, after reading the Holy text, acted as if that text were a wolf and they were a rabbit. Rather than preach from the text they ran from it. Preachers, the more you wander, the more the confused the audience. I have heard educated preachers proudly speak above the head of their audience. I had the joy of listening to such a man the other day, and neither I nor the rest of the audience were impressed. I've also heard preachers who thought they were politicians, orators not for the Lord but for the people. Some of these smiling heads have made it on television, never preaching the whole counsel of God but tickling the ears of their hearers.

What disturbs me most about these types of preachers is that I myself have fallen into one of these categories at one time or the other in my walk with God. Preachers are human, and we all have feet of clay. That's why my

prayer today is that God the Holy Spirit fill me with His power today so that Christ can be lifted up and God can be glorified. God loves His people, and wants His people to understand His Holy Word. God wants us to understand. He illustrates great Biblical truths and speaks to us in simple language so that we can understand. He wants us to receive His Word. The Bible tells us that **“faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)**. We must intelligently and spiritually hear the Word – it must mean something to ME – or else we will neither find salvation nor grow in our walk with God. We must turn away from preachers who **“walk in craftiness, handling the word of God deceitfully” (2 Corinthians 4:2)**. The local Church that **“receives the Word of God, not as the word of man but as THE Word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)** is the Church that will change the world and not be changed by the world.

The devil is not scared of the Church that gathers together on Sunday as the Body of Christ. Our Sunday crowd in no way rivals the crowds of fans that cram into the stadium on Super Bowl Sunday. The devil is not scared of our numbers. Our big new building doesn't frighten him. The Playboy Mansion built by pornographic dollars would dwarf this building. Our budget doesn't frighten the devil. Hollywood, one of Satan's great tools, has a budget of billions of dollars per year. Our booklets and tracts do not disturb the prince of darkness, nor do our tracts or our bumper stickers. No matter how much literature we produce the devil owns more presses and has more representatives than Carter has liver pills. Do you want to know what frightens the

devil halfway back to hell? A Christian who is as committed to the Lord at home, school, or work, as he is she is when they are in the assembly of the saints.

The lord of the flies despises the Pauls, the Silas', the Lydias, the Marys. Satan hates the Christian who lives his faith away from Church with as much vigor as he does while he is at Church. The unbelievers in Thessalonica didn't care when the Christians met for Church in Jerusalem. But when Paul and Silas came into Thessalonica the devil had a fit! **“These people who turned the world upside down are come here also!” (Acts 17:6)**. We didn't mind it when they were somewhere else, but we're surely not going to stand for it now.

Do you want to scare the devil back to hell? Live for the Lord. Be the same way all the time. God saved you to serve Him, not to serve yourselves nor to serve sin. God brought His Old Testament Israel out of Egypt so that she could honor and glorify Him. God saved His New Testament Church for exactly the same reason. You are saved to serve. You serve the Ever Living, Almighty and Holy God.

Leviticus is a relatively small book in the Bible. It is only about forty pages long, twenty seven chapters, and yet it covers very important teachings for the Levites, God's Old Testament priests. A holy God has holy standards, and He laid out His standards very clearly for ancient Israel. As we go through the Book of Leviticus we see something very interesting. Right in the middle of the Book God devotes two whole chapters to the disease

called **leprosy**. Leprosy was a terrible, debilitating disease that ate away the flesh of your body. Leprosy was particularly terrible because the first thing the disease kills is the nerve endings. One you lose feeling in your body you have a tendency to inadvertently hurt yourself. Lepers died of blood loss because they didn't feel when they cut themselves. They died of secondary infection because wounds which do not hurt are often overlooked, then become cancerous. Leprosy was terrible – but WHY would God devote the *center* of this Book to a disease like leprosy?

Because God used the disease of leprosy throughout the Scripture to illustrate the effect of sin and spiritual corruption in the life<sup>1</sup>. God offered no remedy for the leper, but required that the leper be separated from the rest of His people. The poor soul so afflicted cried out “**unclean, unclean**” anytime he was approached by the healthy (**Leviticus 13:45**). The leper was to be placed *outside the camp* (**Leviticus 13:46**). “**He shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be**”. The unclean leper was not allowed to remain with his family, nor even near the Tabernacle of God. The sin offering was killed **outside the camp** (**Leviticus 16:27**), and the leper was kept outside the camp. Though the blood of the sin offering was brought into the Holy Place to make **atonement or payment** for sin, God made it plain that sin was to stay **without the camp**.

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<sup>1</sup> Maclear's Handbook of the Old Testament tells us that: “**Leprosy was “the outward and visible sign of the innermost spiritual corruption; a meet emblem in its small beginnings, its gradual spread, its internal disfigurement, its dissolution little by little of the whole body, of that which corrupts, degrades, and defiles man's inner nature, and renders him unmeet to enter the presence of a pure and holy God”**”

Look yonder and weep! The daddy cannot be with his children, for he is leprous. Send him without the camp. Momma, the momma that you love so, the gray haired grandmother, the bearded grandpap, get out – get out! Sin is in you, it clings and eats on you. You must go without the camp. You go to the priest for help. He can do nothing but diagnose the disease, the corruption that is within. Unless God intervenes you must go without the camp.

My Beloved, we live in a day where man thinks sin is but a joke, a dalliance, a little thing in the eyes of God. We speak of “small sins” and “little white lies” as if they are nothing. But sin to God is an awful thing. There was no such thing as “a little leprosy” among Israel. A small “spot” in the flesh – a little rising (**Leviticus 13:2**), and the Israelite was to immediately go to the priest. If it was leprosy then no quarter was given, no sympathy extended. God “**commanded that every one with the spot or defiled by death be placed out of the camp, for God will not dwell where sin is** (Numbers 5:2-3).

### **1. Have You Been To Jesus For The Cleansing Power?**

God cannot let you into His Heaven if you have even the smallest spot of sin in your life. Sin, like leprosy, is an abomination unto God. Neither sinner nor leper has a place in God's Heaven. Leprosy started small, and spread like poison ivy on the skin. One small spot on the arm today, and tomorrow the arm was consumed. A small spot on the face today, and tomorrow the eyes are gone. This is why God said to the leper:

**FOCAL** Leviticus 13:46 **All the days wherein the plague [shall be] in him he shall be defiled; he [is] unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp [shall] his habitation [be].**

**Leprosy is a plague – and so is sin.** If unchecked sin, like leprosy, will consume its host. I have heard of people who have had tapeworms that literally starved them to death, though those tapeworms were never seen. Leprosy can perhaps be hidden under clothes for a time, just like sin can be hidden for a time. But in time, like a wildfire, sin unchecked will bring destruction to its carrier.

Sin is a terrible plague. Like Adam before us, we can cover it with fig leaves and good works, but the plague rages on. What does the Word of God say?

**Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

The leper could not stay in the place where God dwelt. **“They will not defile in the midst of where I dwell, saith the Lord”** (Numbers 5:3). God says the same thing of His Heaven.

**Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth,**

**neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie .....**

You stand before an Almighty and Holy God. He is watching you, looking into your heart of hearts this day. How will you get into His Heaven? There's only one way:

**Revelation 21:27 ... but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Is your name written in **the Lamb's Book of Life**? Like the old song says:

**Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?  
Are you washed in the Blood of the Lamb?  
Are you fully trusting in His Grace this hour?  
Are you washed in the Blood of the Lamb?**

The Atonement for sin was slain **outside the camp**, the Lamb without spot or blemish was taken to a place apart from all others. That Lamb died alone, friendless, a terrible and bloody death, and its Blood was brought into the Holy Place to make payment for the sins of the people. The Bible tells us:

**Hebrews 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.**

That **burning** was an Old Testament symbol of the judgment of God being poured out on the Lamb. Sin must be punished! It is no pittance, no small thing with God. **The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:15).**

**Ezekiel 18:3-4 [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD ... Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**

The dead soul, the person bound to sin is cast outside of God's Heaven. Lost and undone there is no hope – but this: **Have you been to Jesus?** The Bible says that sin cast us outside the camp, so Jesus made a way.

**Hebrews 13: 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

He Who had every right to the worship of the angels and the splendor of Heaven lowered Himself **so that He could go without camp for us.** As the Lamb was burned by the Levite, Christ had the judgment of God poured out on Him for us. Jesus drank the wrath of God for you and for me. He suffered the very wrath of Hell so that we would never have to bear that pain. Oh My Beloved, consider Jesus on that Cross of Calvary. A place so dark that it was called **Golgotha – the place of the skull.** They gave Him **gall for His meat, and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21).** Here was the precious “Lamb of God

**which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).** Our precious Jesus went without the camp, bearing our reproach, so that we can enter a right relationship with God.

Some of you within the sound of my voice will hear the preaching of the Gospel and will not heed it. Think on this passage once more.

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Many today believe that there is a place called “Purgatory” where a sinner will go until he makes himself right with God. Beloved, I offer this day a thousand dollar reward to the first person who can show me a clear teaching of “Purgatory” in the Bible. You'll find no such thing. The devil who loves to deceive will raise up fancy dressed clerics who expound foolish doctrines of men not found in the Word of God. Nothing ever changes. When Jesus walked the earth the Pharisees – fancy dressed heathen – demanded of Christ “**Why do Your disciples not follow the traditions of the elders? Don't they know they're supposed to wash their hands before eating bread??**” (Matthew 15:2). The devil loves to divert you from the Word of God. What does God say?

**Revelation 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15}**

**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

If your name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life then you will not enter into God's Heaven. The great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

**“The leper was not only loathsome in his person, but was defiled in all his acts. If he drank out of a vessel, the vessel was defiled. If he lay upon a bed, the bed became unclean, and whosoever sat upon the bed afterwards became unclean too. If he touched but the wall of a house the wall became unclean, and must be purged. Wherever he went he tainted the atmosphere, his breath was as dangerous as the pestilence. He shot baneful glances from his eyes. All that he did was full of the same loathsomeness as was himself, Now this may seem to be a very humiliating truth, but faithfulness requires us to say it, all the actions of the natural man are tainted with sin, Whether he eats, or drinks, or whatsoever he does, he continues to sin against his God.”**

Unless God intervenes, like the leper you shall be cast without the camp. You must have the Savior. If you will not come to Jesus and believe on Him then God considers you to be ...

**2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for**

**ever.**

How unnecessary to go into hell! Jesus Christ went **without the camp** so that we who believe in Him **shall never perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)**. What does the Scripture say? It tells us that Christ went **without the camp** to die for our sins. It tells us that:

**Hebrews 10:12-14 But {Jesus}, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ... {14} For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

The Christian is a person who has believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and *who has been saved and sanctified*. The Christian is a person who **confessed with the mouth the Lord Jesus, and believed in the heart that God hath raised Him from the death – and has been saved (Romans 10:9-10)**. God had to cleanse the leper before he was allowed into the camp. God has to clean the sinner before he can be allowed into His presence.

If you've believed in Him, trusting – **fully trusting in His Grace** – then you have been saved. The leprosy of sin is removed by His sacrifice, by **His stripes we have been healed**.

**2. “Christian” Is More Than Just A Title – It Is A State Of Being!**

**FOCAL** Leviticus 13:46 All the days wherein the

plague [shall be] in him he shall be defiled; he [is] unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp [shall] his habitation [be].

Once the leper was cleansed he was no longer a leper. Defiled, he was **defiled no more**. Alone, he was **alone no more**. The Bible tells us that “**Christ died for the ungodly**” (Romans 5:6) – but now that you are cleansed you are ungodly no more. There is a strange doctrine that has invaded God's Church in these latter days that teaches we are saved *in our sins*. Yet this is not what the Scripture teaches. The Bible tells us that **Jesus Christ saves us from our sins**. We are saved **out of the world** (1 Corinthians 5:10). If Jesus went **without the camp** for you, then you can be sure that you are no longer a leper. What does God say?

Hebrews 10:{15} [Whereof] the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, {16} This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, **saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; {17} And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

God writes His Law in the hearts of His people. When He saves them, He cleanses them. When He redeems a life through faith in Christ Jesus He sets that life apart for His glory.

If you have been saved, you are **kings and priests before God**. The Scripture says:

Revelation 1:5-6 ... **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, {6} And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

What a *blasphemous thought* that the leper could be a priest! If you have been saved, then you are a priest unto God. You have been saved to imitate Christ, to live for Him, to glorify God by the life you live. “**Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are. Are you yielding unto sin which leads to death, or are you yielding to obedience which leads to life?**” (Romans 6:16). Do you not know that the leper who came to Jesus for healing was *always healed*? Do you not know that Christ has proved that He is Messiah by saying:

Luke 7:22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that **the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,** to the poor the gospel is preached.

Where Jesus has been, lives are changed. If you have come to Jesus in faith, believing, then God has changed you. You have passed from blindness and your eyes are now opened. You no longer stagger through this life seeking first one temporal pleasure then another. You are

in the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), focused on serving the Lord Who loves you so. You are no longer **deaf** to the Spirit of God, but now He lives and abides within you. You are no longer spiritually dead, but you have been given life. You have eaten of the Bread of Life – and shall live forever! Jesus promised:

**John 6:48-51 I am that bread of life. {49} Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. {50} This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. {51} I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

Think on this: Israel wandered through the wilderness feeding on manna from God. You walk in confidence through this life feeding on Eternal Manna, Jesus Christ our Lord. He speaks to your hearts. He has changed your lives. Just as He healed the leper, so He has healed you. You live and walk in Him.

**John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:**

He gave us **power to become Sons of God**. He now lives in us. The Christian has been **given power to**

**become Sons of God.** What is the proof of your salvation? Is it that you *walked an aisle at some time in your life*? No, that's not proof of salvation. What about *visible morality*? The Pharisees were visibly moral, but were vipers according to Jesus. What about *intellectual knowledge of the Bible*? Does a good Biblical education mean you are saved? No, the Scribes knew the Bible, and were lost in spite of it. What is **proof of life**? The Bible tells us that *genuine love and humility* is proof of life. Jesus said:

**John 13:35 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

and again,

**1 Corinthians 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.**

A genuine love for God and for your fellow man is proof of life. We love one another because we are loved of God. God Who indwells us empowers us to love. If we cannot or will not love one another, then God is not in us. Love is an *action*. **The commandment we have from Him is that if we love God we love our brother also (1 John 4:21).** What other proofs of life are there? The Christian is *devoted to glorifying God*. The Christian experiences *answered prayer apart from the prayer that saved him*. The Christian hates sin – oh, how he or she hates sin! No leper ever remembers with fondness the day that he or she was first diagnosed with leprosy.

Those who are saved love others but hate sin. We hate sin for what it did to our Savior. We hate sin because we understand that sin kills. We hate sin because it leads to eternal separation from God. We hate sin because it hurts those we love. We who are saved are:

**Romans 5:1-2 ... justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: {2} By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

Having been justified by faith, God has assured you that you are His. You have access with God by faith in Christ Jesus. And, as His children, those of you who are saved **rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** You glorify God by becoming sons. May God help you to understand that “Christian” is more than just a title – it is a way of life. Walk in Him, dear Beloved, and shape your world for His glory. In Christ's Name I pray.

Amen!



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