

## A Picture of Pursuit

### **Intro:**

Lk 12:13-48

To much is given much is required

1 pet 2:1-9

This passage in Leviticus is about us - not the teachers among us but all of us...

Rom 12:1-2

We have been called to something more - do you actually believe it?

### **Problem:**

Lk 9:23-27

Be holy because I am holy - Leviticus 19-20 The call to pursuit

Lk 9:28-36

Leviticus 21-22

The priesthood was meant to be a picture of pursuit

Lk 9:37-60

They didn't get it - their aim was too low- too relative

If Lev 19-20 was calling the people to the pursuit of holiness

Then Lev 21-22 was meant to give them a picture of it through the priesthood

### **Main Idea:**

We are called to more than sin management

We are called to run

### **Implication:**

it doesn't matter if we think of it as a sprint or a marathon it is a race meant to be run as if we want to win

### **Application:**

The real question that should concern us is not: "is it a sin?" -

the real question is: "will it help me run?"

### **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.barabbas.com/jesus-our-champion/>

<https://www.monergism.com/blog/sanctification-monergistic-or-synergistic>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/progressive-sanctification.html>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/why-we-must-pursue-holiness/>

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## Text:

### We are called to more than sin management

#### Nothing Profane

Leviticus 21:1 ¶ And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them, No one shall make himself **unclean** for the dead among his people, Leviticus 21:2 except for his closest relatives, his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, his brother, Leviticus 21:3 or his virgin sister (who is near to him because she has had no husband; for her he may make himself unclean). Leviticus 21:4 He shall not make himself **unclean** as a husband among his people and so **profane** himself. Leviticus 21:5 They shall not make bald patches on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts on their body. Leviticus 21:6 They shall be holy to their God and not **profane** the name of their God. For they offer the LORD'S food offerings, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. Leviticus 21:7 They shall not marry a prostitute or a woman who has been **defiled**, neither shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God. Leviticus 21:8 You shall sanctify him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, **for I, the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy.** Leviticus 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she **profanes** herself by whoring, **profanes** her father; she shall be **burned with fire.** Leviticus 21:10 ¶ "The priest who is chief among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not let the hair of his head hang loose nor tear his clothes. Leviticus 21:11 He shall not go in to any dead bodies nor make himself **unclean**, even for his father or for his mother. Leviticus 21:12 He shall not go out of the sanctuary, lest he **profane** the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him: I am the LORD. Leviticus 21:13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity. Leviticus 21:14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or a woman who has been **defiled**, or a prostitute, these he shall not marry. But he shall take as his wife a virgin of his own people, Leviticus 21:15 that he may not **profane** his offspring among his people, **for I am the LORD who sanctifies him."**

#### Nothing Blemished

Leviticus 21:16 ¶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Leviticus 21:17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a **blemish** may approach to offer the bread of his God. Leviticus 21:18 For no one who has a **blemish** shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated face or a limb too long, Leviticus 21:19 or a man who has an injured foot or an injured hand, Leviticus 21:20 or a hunchback or a dwarf or a man with a defect in his sight or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles. Leviticus 21:21 No man of the offspring of Aaron the priest who has a **blemish** shall come near to offer the LORD'S food offerings; since he has a **blemish**, he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God. Leviticus 21:22 He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things, Leviticus 21:23 but he shall not go through the veil or approach the altar, because he has a **blemish**, that he may not profane my sanctuaries, **for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."**

Leviticus 21:24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the people of Israel.

#### Nothing Unclean

Leviticus 22:1 ¶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Leviticus 22:2 "Speak to Aaron and his sons so that they abstain from **the holy things** of the people of Israel, which they dedicate to me, so that they do not profane my holy name: I am the LORD. Leviticus 22:3 Say to them, 'If any one of all your offspring throughout your generations approaches **the holy things** that the people of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD. Leviticus 22:4 None of the offspring of Aaron who has a leprous disease or a discharge may eat of **the holy things** until he is clean. Whoever touches anything that is unclean through contact with the dead or a man who has had an emission of semen, Leviticus 22:5 and whoever touches a swarming thing by which he may be **made unclean** or a person from whom he may take uncleanness, whatever his uncleanness may be— Leviticus 22:6 the person who touches such a thing shall be unclean until the evening and shall not eat of **the holy things** unless he has bathed his body in water. Leviticus 22:7 When the sun goes down he shall be clean, and afterward he may eat of **the holy things**, because they are his food. Leviticus 22:8 He shall not eat what dies of itself or is torn by beasts, and so make himself unclean by it: I am the LORD.' Leviticus 22:9 They shall therefore keep my charge, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby when they profane it: **I am the LORD who sanctifies them.** Leviticus 22:10 ¶ "A lay person shall not eat of a **holy thing**; no foreign guest of the priest or hired worker shall eat of a **holy thing**, Leviticus 22:11 but if a priest buys a slave as his property for money, the slave may eat of it, and anyone born in his house may eat of his food. Leviticus 22:12 If a priest's daughter marries a layman, she shall not eat of the contribution of **the holy things.** Leviticus 22:13 But if a priest's daughter is widowed or divorced and has no child and returns to her father's house, as in her youth, she may eat of her father's food; yet no lay person shall eat of it. Leviticus 22:14 And if anyone eats of a **holy thing** unintentionally, he shall add the fifth of its value to it and give **the holy thing** to the priest. Leviticus 22:15 They shall not **profane the holy things** of the people of Israel, which they contribute to the LORD, Leviticus 22:16 and so cause them to bear iniquity and guilt, by eating their **holy things: for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."**

#### Nothing Unacceptable

Leviticus 22:17 ¶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Leviticus 22:18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the sojourners in Israel presents a burnt **offering** as his **offering**, for any of their vows or freewill **offerings** that they **offer** to the LORD, Leviticus 22:19 if it is to be **accepted** for you it shall be a male without blemish, of the bulls or the sheep or the goats. Leviticus 22:20 You shall not **offer** anything that has a blemish, for it will not be **acceptable** for you. Leviticus 22:21 And when anyone **offers** a sacrifice of peace **offerings** to the LORD to fulfill a vow or as a freewill **offering** from the herd or from the flock, to be **accepted** it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it. Leviticus 22:22 Animals blind or disabled or mutilated or having a discharge or an itch or scabs you shall not **offer** to the LORD or give them to the LORD as a food **offering** on the altar. Leviticus 22:23 You may present a bull or a lamb that has a part too long or too short for a freewill **offering**, but for a vow offering it cannot be **accepted.** Leviticus 22:24 Any animal that has its testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut you shall not **offer** to the LORD; you shall not do it within your land, Leviticus 22:25 neither shall you **offer** as the bread of your God any such animals gotten from a foreigner. Since there is a blemish in them, because of their mutilation, they will not be **accepted** for you." Leviticus 22:26 ¶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Leviticus 22:27 "When an ox or sheep or goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be **acceptable** as a food **offering** to the LORD. Leviticus 22:28 But you shall not kill an ox or a sheep and her young in one day. Leviticus 22:29 And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be **accepted.** Leviticus 22:30 It shall be eaten on the same day; you shall leave none of it until morning: I am the LORD. *heb 7:11, 26-28; 9:13-14; 10:1-4, 11-14, 18-25 (inadequacy built into the system - but they could not see it - why?)* *Lk 18:9-14 (they had the wrong scale - beware of pursuing relative holiness)* *matt 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31 (their problem was not that they took this literally but that they didn't take it literally enough)* *matt 5:17-20, 48 (must be perfect - they were always meant to feel inadequate like they never quite measured up - because they didn't)* *lev 9:2, 8; 10:1-3 (we work from our holiness not for it - Aaron knew it intimately - the pursuit of holiness is a gift of grace ...built right into our passage...)*

### We are called to run

Leviticus 22:31 ¶ "So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD. Leviticus 22:32 And you shall not profane my holy name, **that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,** Leviticus 22:33 who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD."

*zech 3:1-5 (look past your filthy garments, look past your filthy gifts - I am the Lord who sanctifies you - 21:8, 15, 23; 22:9, 16, 32)* *Jn 2:1-11 (there is a better picture in view - ceremonial pots - the true high priest had come with a more exclusive marriage in view)* *eph 5:25-27 (a more exclusive marriage, a brighter, cleaner, smoother more spotless, calling)* *Phil 2:12-13 (presents the church to Himself - it is the Lord who sanctifies - He is working - can you see it? passivity is unbelief)* *Phil 3:1-17 (the levites were called to pursue holiness and they were given examples - so have we)* *1 cor 9:24-25 (it doesn't matter if we think of it as a sprint or a marathon it is a race meant to be run as if we want to win - main idea)*

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