

February 20 Answers

- 1) The laws regarding skin diseases and fungal infections. These laws were very important to the physical **health** of the community, for such infections could easily **spread** throughout the camp. Because of their contagious nature, God required **priestly** involvement in the diagnosis, treatment, cleansing and restoration of those affected by these ailments. As we meditate on these laws, several things stand out: (1) Skin diseases and fungal infections signified **sin** and its **defiling** effects. Just as a skin disease can spread across the body and then contaminate others, so a small sin can spread across the soul and then corrupt others. This perspective should radically change our **attitude** toward sin! (2) Each person was responsible to **notice** their ailment and take immediate **action**. This meant that personal hygiene was the **duty** of each Israelite. In the same way, spiritual hygiene is our duty. We must be on guard for areas of weakness or compromise and take immediate action. (3) The **priest** was to be involved in dealing with the infection or disease. The individual was *not* to try to handle the problem on their own. This teaches us that we should seek out our spiritual **leaders** when we're struggling with sin. They should be involved in helping us to resist temptation and to stand strong against the enemy. (4) The rituals associated with cleansing and restoration were **complicated** and **costly**. They testified to the individual and the community that wellness and wholeness had returned. This speaks to us of the obedient **life** and costly sacrifice of Jesus. These laws help us appreciate all the more what Christ did for us on the cross. (5) As the people carefully followed these laws, they gained **practice** in recognizing physical defects and making sure that uncleanness didn't affect the ritual holiness of the camp or the Tabernacle. This **skill** in the physical, ritual realm was meant to carry over into the spiritual, moral realm. God wanted Israel to be as sensitive to sin and its corrupting effects as they were to infections and diseases. What a beautiful and effective way to teach holy living!

“You are to distinguish between the holy and the common,
and between the unclean and the clean” (Lev 10:10)

