

# Weaving the Word

## *Bird Blood Plague*

May 19, 2019

*Welcome to where we're learning to face the plague of our heart!*



**Do you know the plague of your own heart?**

In Scripture, **leprous sores symbolize sin.**

Leviticus (13-14) describes three types of leprosy: in the **body**, in the **house**, and in the **clothing**.



And, Scripture often compares and contrasts clothing to the heart. So, if you're convicted today, "Rend your heart and not your garments". (Joel 2:13)

Now, *sin* is categorized in three corresponding ways: (1 Jn 2:16)

1. **"The lust of the flesh"**: "I want to *do* whatever I want, *whenever* I want to *do* it!"

Like *leprous sores*, **it consumes our strength and vitality, and leaves us with pain and sorrow and isolation and shame.**

2. **"The lust of the eyes"**: "I want to *have* whatever I want to *whatever degree* I want it!"

Like *leprous mold*, **it destroys the things we buy and build, for security and comfort, with worry, envy, greed, and discontent.**

3. **"The boastful pride of life"**: "I want to *be* whatever I want, *however* I want to *be* it!"

This is the deepest and the nastiest. It's referred to as the plague of the heart; "for *out* of the *overflow of the heart*, the *mouth speaks*." (Lk 6:45)



Like *leprous mildew* on clammy, dank, cloth, **it contaminates the fabricated image we're presenting, and robs us of the dignity, value, self-worth, and meaning we were trying to attain.**

Now, up close and personal, mold looks kinda cool.



So, we need to take a step back to see it as it is.

The better our grasp on the plague of our own heart, the clearer we can see what we need to do; and, the stronger we'll desire to follow it through!



As we saw, **Jesus came, not to cleanse the Temple, but to replace it.** And as with a leprous house, not one stone could remain upon another.



And, they must be replaced with other stones. In this case, living stones cleansed by His blood.



We're in Jerusalem, just before Passover, one year before the cross. Jesus has been sprinting through Galilee, while the Twelve took Judea.



They were running, fleeing, teaching, and healing every leprous disease they could get their hands on!



He sent the Twelve, "To heal *all kinds of disease*," and to "*cleanse the lepers*". And "Jesus went about *all the cities and villages ... healing every sickness and every disease*," "The lepers are cleansed!" "Great multitudes followed Him, and He *healed them all*." "As many as had afflictions [plague] pressed about Him to touch Him," "And He laid His hands on every one of them." (Mt 10:1, 10:8, 9:35, Lk7:22; Mt 12:15; Mk 3:10; Lk 4:40)



**Hordes of healed lepers were lining up for their cleansing that Passover.**

**And, each one freeing a songbird, covered in the blood of another.**



And, when the Pharisees attacked Him, Jesus said:

The *very work* that the Father has given me to *finish*, and which *I am doing, testifies ... [literally from the rooftops! And Scripture even says that the birds nested in the Temple! (Ps 84:3)]* – John 5:36b NIV



This explosion of healings was being tweeted from every rooftop, in a birdsong of deliverance, as a wondrous sign from the heavens, of **Jesus' current work and coming cure in one short year!**



**[As King David sang]** In the shadow of *Your wings* I will make my refuge ... I will *sing* and give praise. ... For *Your mercy reaches unto the heavens*, and *Your truth unto the clouds*. – Psalm 57:1, 7-10 NKJ

*My heart is severely pained* within me ... Oh, that *I had wings like a dove!* I would *fly away* and be at rest. – Psalm 55:4-6 NKJ

*Son of man, these men have set up their idols* in their hearts, – Ezekiel 14:3 NKJ

They made their *hearts like flint, refusing to hear* the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His *Spirit* – Zechariah 7:12 NKJ

The *pride of your heart* has deceived you, – Obadiah 1:3 NKJ

*Purify your hearts, you double-minded.* – James 4:8b NKJ

I will give you a *new heart* and put a *new spirit* within you; I will take the *heart of stone* ... and give you a *heart of flesh*. [See; those are the living stones!] – Ezekiel 36:26 NKJ  
[But] The *wicked* is *snared* in the *work* of his *own hands*. – Psalm 9:16 NKJ

They trust in *empty words* ... and *weave* the *spider's web*; [thread] ... *Their webs* will *not* become *garments*, *nor* will they *cover themselves* with *their works* ... They have *made* themselves *crooked paths*; whoever takes that way shall *not* know *peace* – Isaiah 59:4-8 NKJ

I have cut off my life like a weaver. He cuts me off from the loom; – Isaiah 38:12a NKJ

**So, what is the condition of your soul?** Take stock. Make sure. Face the truth. **Your case apart from grace is hopeless.** Lean into it. Make the most of it.

**Weed it out with His help. And, don't weave it in.**

Last week, we read the Leviticus house-leprosy Scriptures; and we watched Jesus *jump out!* This isn't about comprehending every symbolic reference as we fly by; it's about seeing how it works.

If a garment has a leprosy plague in it, whether it is a **woolen garment** [worn outside] or a **linen garment**, [worn inside] [like the way we package ourselves in public or private; or] whether it is in the **warp or woof** of linen or wool, [the unwoven cross threads of a loom; like the things we intend to weave into the fabric of our lives] ... **The priest shall examine the plague** [Jesus is our Great High Priest who covers us; and, the Great Physician who heals us] and **isolate that which has the plague seven days**. [Same with the house; and as we saw Jesus do, when He left the Temple seven days before He rose and returned] ... If the *plague* has *spread* ... [it] shall be **burned in the fire**. But if [after these seven days] ... the *plague* has *not spread* ... the **priest shall command that they wash the thing in which is the plague**; [in our case, our heart, in His blood] and **he shall isolate it another seven days**. [As Jesus did after He rose, when He returned to His disciples one week later; now if, one week later] ... the *plague* has *faded after washing it*, [which is good but not great; like being kinda saved] then **he shall tear it out of the garment**, [Because, Jesus means business! He said He came to bring fire and sword (Mt 10:34; Lk 12:49); and] ... if the *plague* has *disappeared* from it, then **it shall be washed a second time, and shall be clean**. – Leviticus 13:47-59 NKJ

Once we've been cleansed by His blood to remove the stain of sin; we must then be washed once again in our *ongoing cleansing*.

[Christ] loved the church [His body; His children; His family] and gave Himself for her, [with His blood] that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself ... holy and without blemish. – Ephesians 5:26-27 NKJ

**We're covered in the blood ... but, we must be washed in His Word.**

**Blood-washing requires being a receiver of His work.**

**Water-washing requires being a doer of His Word.**

So, "let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." (Ps 19:14)

“The days are coming,” says the Lord God, “That I will send a *famine* on the *land*, not a *famine* of *bread*, nor a *thirst* for *water*, but of *hearing the words of the Lord*.” – Amos 8:11 NKJ

When there is *famine* in the *land*, **pestilence** [in your flesh] or **blight** [in your belongings] or **mildew**, [in your coverings] ... *whatever plague* or *whatever sickness* there is ... *when each one knows the plague of his own heart*, [2 Chron 6:29: *his own burden and his own grief*] and **spreads out his hands toward this temple** [which is Christ himself]: then *hear* ... and *forgive*, and *act*, and *give* to *everyone according to all his ways*, whose *heart You know* – 1 Kings 8:37-39 NKJ

We’re experts at discerning the plague of someone else’s heart.

**But, it’s time to examine and know the plague of your own.**

**Does that one sin from the past keep tormenting you?**

Face it, know it, and embrace the cure of the One who cares.

**Is there an overpowering tendency to do that one thing?**

Face it, know it, and embrace the cure of the One who cares.

**What is this sin that troubles you?** Look at it. Examine it.

**What is that tendency to sin that enslaves you?** Isolate it.

**What is the fear that haunts you?** Write it down. In black and white.

It can’t hurt to know the truth; but it can sure help. **Heart plague doesn’t heal on its own.**

We must turn to and trust the Great Physician.

**He made you. And He can remake you.** Just like new.

So, clean the slate. Clear the deck. Begin again.

He’ll keep you till the end. From strength to strength, and joy to joy.

**He’ll make your experience of sin instrumental for good.**

No one makes a better game warden than an old poacher! So, no one seems better able to bring others to Christ than those who know what sin and salvation mean by actual experience.

**He binds us to himself by the immensity of our former guilt.**

We love Him much because we’ve had much forgiven.