

## SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #9 "Skin Conditions"

Lev 21:16-20

Series: Lev 21:16-24 Those not to minister in the temple - physical defects. Physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God. Today: Skin conditions. Speaking of the issue of sensitivity.

### I. FEELING TOUCHY

A. The scripture speaks of skin conditions *V20 scurvy or a scab/festering or running sores...*

1. Some of these are due to wounds/injuries/damage to the skin
2. Speaking of wounds done to our self-worth/identity in the past
  - a. *Rejection: Message given that we are not wanted – we have no value*
  - b. *Failure: We didn't do well – we looked foolish*
  - c. *An assault on our pride: Someone unfairly attacked/criticized/slandered...*

B. The end results are lingering wounds

1. The result: The person becomes sensitive/touchy
  - a. *Easy to get a negative reaction from any minor touch: Sunburn – someone slaps you on the back!*
2. This kind of person is on constant guard of their ego
  - a. **Easily offended:** Any slight word can cause offense; *Can't let anything go*
  - b. **Hold on to offenses** (real or imagined): *You go on their black list forever/written off*
    1. *2 Tim 2:23-24 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*
  - c. **Go on the attack:** *Prov 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife...*
    1. *Open conflicts*
    2. *Using pulpit to attack/'settle' things*

C. Our scripture is a ministry issue: This heart won't function well in ministry; People will say/do hurtful things

1. **Because they're people** – that's what they do; They're ignorant - don't realize that it's hurtful
  - a. *Ecc 7:21-22 Don't listen to everything people say, or you might hear your servant insulting you. 22 You know that many times you have insulted others.*
1. Ministry attracts criticism – that's life
2. **Because they're going through stress/current problems:** Lash out at you
  - a. *Going through stress/frustrated with life/frustrated with themselves*
3. **Because they're convicted:** It's easier to resist a man than God    *Asa imprisoned the prophet!*

### II. THE DAMAGE OF TOUCHINESS

A. **We view correction incorrectly:** Rejection issues cause us to view correction as rejection!

1. Therefore we fail to develop: *Withdraw from headship or develop funky attitudes towards*

B. **We become distracted from our main purpose**

1. Our ego/insecurity will make every comment/action all-consuming
  - a. *Constant: Move from 1 fire to another; There's a lot of rumors going around...*
  - b. *All they can see: Not good things - insults & slights!*
2. It's possible to lose sight of what church is for: Foolish arguments/conflicts keep us from our task
  - a. *2 Tim 2:23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels*

C. **You limit your ministry:** The number & range of people

1. Small-minded/small-hearted/super-touchy men can only handle small ministries
  - a. *People who groove on them – think exactly like them: There's not that many!!!*

D. **Lose credibility with people**

1. Not everyone is as concerned with your feelings as you are
  - a. *Those with experience/wisdom will see you as a foolish person – not to be trusted*
2. They will function in church to avoid offending – but they don't respect you
3. Ultimately some people will choose to leave: Find a church without drama/landmines

### III. GETTING OUR SKIN HEALED

A. It is important to get our skin healed if we are to be able to minister effectively

1. **Healing must involve repentance**

    a. We need to repent of exalting our ego

2. **Healing comes from God:** He is able to heal skin problems! *Mark 1:40-42 NCV A man with a skin disease came to Jesus. He fell to his knees and begged Jesus, "You can heal me if you will." Jesus felt sorry for the man, so he reached out his hand and touched him and said, "I will. Be healed!" Immediately the disease left the man, and he was healed.*

1. Bring the hurts - the root causes to Jesus and allow Him to heal you

B. We also need to ask God for wisdom

1. With wisdom comes not just healing for skin/past hurts – but strength to handle future wounds
  - a. *James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you.*
    1. *Charles Spurgeon: A Pastor ought to have the mind of a scholar, the heart of a child, and the hide of a rhinoceros.*
2. Wisdom gives the strength to let things 'bounce' off of us