

Tough Texts

Does God Reject Unclean People?

Wyatt Martin // March 12, 2023

Leviticus 11-15; Ezekiel 22:26

Big Idea: We can only enter into God's presence because of God's grace.

- **If God is good and the Bible is God's Word, then everything the Bible teaches is good.**
- **What's our reaction when we encounter a tough text?**
 1. There's something wrong with the Bible.
 2. There's something wrong with me.
 3. There's something wrong with my understanding of the text.
- **Does God reject unclean people?**

Ezekiel 22:26; Leviticus 12:1-2, 5; 13:1-5; 15:16-22
- **It's not sinful to be unclean – it's sinful to enter into God's presence in an unclean state.**
- **The cleanliness laws are designed to bring God's people back into his presence.**

Genesis 3:23-24
- **None of us are worthy to be in the presence of a holy God.**

Matthew 15:10-11; Luke 5:12-13
- **Jesus makes us clean so we can be in God's presence and God's presence can be in us.**

1 John 1:9

Message questions

Let's be honest—sometimes the Bible is hard to read. Sometimes you come across a story that seems like it couldn't possibly be in the Bible. Too often, we hide from these stories rather than dive into them. But if we really believe that the Bible is God's Word to us (we do), and if we really believe that God is always good and just (we do), then nothing that he says in the scriptures can be wrong or evil. Understanding it is another issue, and that's where this series comes in.

In our new series, *Tough Texts*, we're going to take on three of the hardest passages in the Old Testament that raise the biggest questions about God's character, and we're going to see if we can understand what our good God is really trying to say to us. Today, the question being addressed is *Does God Reject Unclean People?* Our Big Idea is: *We can only enter into God's presence because of God's grace.* Our passages are **Genesis 3:23-24; Leviticus 10:10, 12:1-2, 12:5, 13:1-3, 15:16-22; Matthew 15:10-11; Luke 5:12-13; and 1 John 1:7-9.**

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Share amongst your group scripture passages that have been difficult to understand. What struck you from this weekend's message? What new things did you learn?
2. Read **Leviticus 10:10**. How do you better understand clean and unclean after this weekend's message?

3. Have someone read **Luke 5:12-13**. What impact do you think Jesus' touch had on those who were watching this interaction?
4. We can only enter God's presence because of God's grace. Does this statement motivate you to **grow** in your relationship with Jesus and understanding of the scriptures, or are you so confident in it that it has caused you to stop pursuing growth?
5. Are the people God has called you to confused about scripture? What topics or texts are difficult for them to understand? How does your growth in understanding the scriptures help you to **go** to those people?