

## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Feb. 23, 2016

- Leviticus 14 – Ritual cleansing of a person cured of infectious skin disease.
- John 8:31-59 – True disciples (31-38); Jesus and Abraham (39-59).
- Song of Solomon 7:5-6 – Solomon’s continued celebration of the Shulamite’s beauty.

### Commentary:

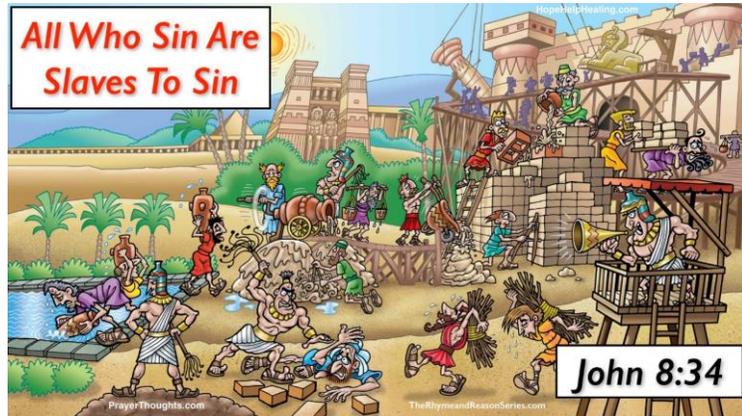
1. Leviticus 14. After a person who had been isolated as unclean outside the camp of Israel had become cured (either by natural causes or in answer to prayer; cf. Num. 12:13), he could be readmitted to fellowship within the nation and could again draw near to worship the God at the Tent of Meeting with fellow believers. Prior to being declared clean by the diagnosis of the priest, life must have been horrendous. Imagine what it must have felt like to watch a contagious lesion growing on your skin and to experience dread and helplessness as the symptoms persist. Imagine the total despair as the priest diagnoses the condition as “unclean.” You say goodbye to your family, friends, and loved ones. For now, you must live outside the camp—cut off from all but other “lepers,” removed from all of the normal aspects of daily life, and becoming, literally, forsaken. Apart from a deepening relationship with God you will now, from now on, awake every morning with no reason to get up, nothing to do, unneeded and uncared for by anyone. However, with the Lord, your spiritual life will only deepen while you live virtually alone. And then, beyond your wildest hopes and dreams, healing comes, the disease is arrested! Imagine the joy of returning to the camp, and now being restored to all the rights and privileges of being with the family of God again, to the high privilege of worshiping the living God again in the tabernacle with your friends and family. What a joy! Regardless of your circumstances as an outcast unhealthy leper or healthy person among the people of God, your love for the Lord only grows with time. With the Lord, life is *always* a win-win situation. Quo Vadis?



2. John 8:31-59. In verse 33, the phrase “we were never in bondage to any man,” illustrates just how blind a person can be to his own bondage. How could the Jews say this? Then what about Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Syria? Was there not a Roman garrison looking down from the castle into the very Temple courts? Unfortunately, we all

have power to ignore what we do not want to see and plenty of excuses for every selfish thing we want to do or not do.

Moreover, if these Jews really knew what Christ meant by slavery and freedom, they would have welcomed Him with open arms. But because they did not recognize their slavery to sin,



they were indifferent to His offers of freedom. As we noted in our last Bible class, life is all about choices and those choices set our characters from which our desires and values flow for further options. We are not as free as we think we are. We as lovers of God and His Word are not free to just decide to hate God or hate His Word any more than a person who does not love the Lord or the Word of God can make himself love God and His Word. We are constantly actualizing our characters, which will then be the foundation for more slavery or freedom. When we sin, that is, actualize sin, we damage our character and we become less free because our character has taken on increased appetite for evil. However, when we decide to follow the Lord rather than commit an act of sin, we actualize virtue which the Holy Spirit then raises to a supernatural level, which sets a virtuous character than has less appetite for sin and evil. Again, we are tied to our character and desires. What we do is what we become! Read verse 34 and think about these ramifications? What are we habituating in our lives each and every day with each and every act? Quo Vadis?

3. Song of Solomon 7:5-8. By comparing her head to Mount Carmel, he meant that she had a queenly bearing that was majestic and awesome. The beloved’s hair was so beautiful that the powerful monarch Solomon was held captive by its beauty. The lover concluded his praise of his beloved’s charms with a summary statement of her perfect beauty, calling her “O love” (6). Solomon’s sexual attraction and the stimulus to his desire focuses in on her breasts. He says that her breasts are like clusters of fruit and that he will climb the tree and seize the fruit. The meaning of his metaphor is obvious.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don