**God’s Holiness**

**January 25- 26, 2017**

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” - Tozer*

Watch the Holiness video by The bible Project: found on [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9vn5UvsHvM) or on [Bible Project Website](https://thebibleproject.com/resources/?swoof=1&product_cat=biblical-themes)

What stood out to you from the video? What does the word holy meant to you? What do you think it means?

Read the definitions of holiness below:

 *Hebrew -* ***Qodes****h - to be set apart for a special purpose.*

 *Greek -* ***Hagios*** *– sacred; physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated*

 *“God is holy because he’s morally perfect*; *Holy - utterly unique” – Bible Project*

*God is holy, holy, holy - mentioned 3 times provides incredible significance. The only attribute of God that is mentioned 3 times.* (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8)

What does this meaning of holiness mean to you now? Why is this significant?

Read: Genesis 2:3, Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 15: 11-13, Leviticus 11:44-45

First two things called holy are: The Sabbath (Genesis) and the ground around the burning bush (Exodus)

 God is called holy for the first time in Exodus 15: 11-13

 We are to be holy as God is holy: Leviticus 11:44

What do these passages teach you that holiness is? Why are these certain things called holy (day, ground, etc)? How are we to be holy like He is holy?

*God’s holiness is so pure and good that it poses a paradox for humans living in a world ruined by sin. His power and purity can become dangerous to mortal humans corrupted by sin.*

-Examples of this are clearly stated by the sacredness of the Holy of Holies where God’s presence dwelt. Priests were also in danger if they didn’t honor God’s holiness in this place. (Leviticus 9-15).

Discuss this paradox, also discuss the analogy of the sun in the video. What do these mean to you? How does the paradox effect how you see yourself before God? How does, or how can, this effect how you pray?

*Sun - unique, powerful, full of life: The whole area around the Sun is also “holy” because the closer you get to the sun the more intense it gets. The sun can be so powerful that it can become dangerous.*

Read Isaiah 6: 1-6

 “*Isaiah has a stranger vision where he is in the temple (where he didn’t belong) and is in the direct presence of God. Instead of being destroyed, God has a burning, holy coal taken from his presence and applied to Isaiahs lips. Instead of the temple being contaminated by Isaiah’s impurity, God’s holiness transfers to Isaiah and erases his sin and impurity. Maybe it is our sin that is endangered by God’s holiness.”*

What sticks out to you in this passage? What does this mean to you, that instead of our impurity defiling a holy place, instead God’s purity can purify us?

\*Ezekiel 47: 7-12: A clean water flows into a salt sea and purifies it. What does this also speak to you?

Read Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 9: 20-22, Luke 7: 11-17

In a similar way (to the Isaiah and Ezekiel passages), Christ’s purity brings healing to those who are considered “unclean.”. What is significant about Christ purifying others instead of them defiling him? How does knowing this effect your relationship with him?

Read Mark 7: 14-23 and Matthew 26: 26-29. Jesus states that what comes out of a person is what makes them unclean (not what goes in). He also states that his blood being poured out provides forgiveness of sins. In the context of what we have discussed so far, what do you think this passage means? How does our relationship with Christ, and what He did for us, affect our impurity?

Read Hebrews 10: 1-4. Does reading these verses bringing a better understanding to this passage?

Read Acts 2:1-4 and John 7: 37-39. After Christ’s death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit can live within those who believe in what Christ has done. Why is this significant now? How does this relate to what we studied about the temple and God’s holiness and the purity that can be given by Christ to those who are impure? What does this mean in your own life personally?

How does this study effect or change your view of who God is? How does this effect how you serve and worship him? How can this change your prayer life? Remember the command to be holy as He is Holy, what does this mean to you now?

\*If time allows, read the passages below and discuss what this means in your own life.

Romans 12:1 Offer your bodies…. As living sacrifice…. Holy and pleasing to God.

Ephesians 1:4 Chose us to be holy and blameless in his sight

Colossians 1:22 Reconciled by Christ to be holy in his sight

1 Thessalonians 4:7 Called us not to be impure, but to be holy.

Hebrews 12:14 Be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord

1 Peter 1:14-16 : But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

Other “Holy” References:

Exodus 15:13: God will guide them to HIs holy dwelling

Exodus 19:6 : Israel was to be a holy nation

Exodus references: Holy of Holies, separation between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place

Exodus 29:37 : Whatever touches the altar will be made holy

Matthew 27: Holy people arose after Christ's resurrection and went into the city.

References: The Bible Project, <https://thebibleproject.com/resources/?swoof=1&product_cat=biblical-themes>

**God’s Holiness – Scripture References**

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Genesis 2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Exodus 3: 1-6 : Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 15: 11-13 “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

 Who is like you, majestic in holiness,

 awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand;

 the earth swallowed them.

13 “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;

 you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Leviticus 11:44-45 For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. 45 For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

Isaiah 6: 1-6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train[a] of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory!”[b]

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Matthew 8: 1-4 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper[a] came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” 3 And Jesus[b] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

Matthew 9:20-22 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly[a] the woman was made well.

Luke 7: 11-17 Soon afterward[a] he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus[b] gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” 17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Mark 7: 14-23 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”[a] 17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?”[b] (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Matthew 26: 26-29 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Hebrews 10:1-4 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested[a] on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

John 7: 37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.