

4 - OT X

received the Gospel, but along with the Gospel they also brought on their clothes some of the germs of diseases to which we have developed an immunity. Most of us, diseases we don't have to worry about it. But these people there had never been exposed to these particular diseases and they spread like wild fire through them, and so the tribe completely disappeared in a brief time as a result of that which these fine Christian missionaries had in their ignorance brought in along ~~with~~ with the good things they they brought.

And so the Lord has given us commands to watch out for these things, to get the knowledge necessary to avoid the spreading of that which will do great harm and injury to others. And so in this case we have these catch all phrases: the leper, the leper was put out of the camp. There was no knowledge then of how to deal with the lepers, how to help them to improve. Even today I believe they are isolated, though we have many ways of helping them that were unknown at that time. And every one who had a running sore which was a catch all that would get a number of probably different diseases that would be very communicable. That's No. 1, the importance of isolation. ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~contagion.~~ contagion.

We mention as number 2 -- you notice it says they put out of the camp every leper, everyone that has an issue, and whoever is defiled by the dead. Now that is something that is rather foreign to our experience today. The prohibition against touching a dead body.

2. The prohibition against touching a dead body. This enters in in a number of places in the OT. There were very strict rules that a person who touched a dead body became unclean, and for a certain length of time anyone whom he touched became unclean. And it was necessary that ^{he} go outside the camp ^{that he} or be isolated in order that this uncleanness be not spread. That is something that is quite foreign to our experience today. But under these sanitary conditions of those days and the knowledge of medicine there was certainly reason in avoiding the touching of the dead body. There is the danger from diseases, especially you don't know the cause of death.