

# Healing A Leprous House

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*[Luke 17:12-16] Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*

Leviticus chapter 14 includes the Mosaic rules about lepers and leprous houses. We all know what lepers are but you would wonder what the leprous houses are. Reading the descriptions of leprous houses in this chapter will tell you that it refers to houses infested with molds. The rule about leprous houses was given during the wilderness journey of Israel when the people were living in tents and not in permanent houses. So this rule would apply later when they occupied the Promised Land and live in homes built mostly with stones, clay, and plaster.

Molds are found in most American homes. According to a study by the University of Arizona on houses in seven states on the impact of molds in residential homes on people's health.

[ <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/indoor-mold-pervasive-us-homes-according-study-presented-allergy-and>] They found molds of varying amounts in 100 percent of the homes studied, but only 28 percent of their residents were aware of the mold presence in their homes. In other words, Americans have a serious insensitivity toward residential mold presence. A mold colony sends out mold spores continually to the affected home's indoor environment and they are a serious cause of respiratory and other illnesses including asthma and lung cancer. This insensitivity is similar to how the people of leprosy are not aware of its contraction in its early stage.

In the fall of 2021, I bought a rural property of a few acres in the Shenandoah Valley of northwest Virginia. It has a mobile home of over 30 years of age which had not been tended for over two years. A water pipe rupture caused serious flooding in an area of this house that became heavily infested with black molds. Upon consideration, I decided to remediate the mold-infested area and restore the house to a useful country residence. So, for three months I did mold remediation work by removing the mold-affected floors and walls, replacing them with new materials, and finishing them new. Very fortunately for me, a church friend, who is a mold remediation expert, volunteered to lend help for over a week during a very cold winter period. Thanks much to his kind help the sick house has now become a rather pleasant country home with clean indoor air quality. I am very grateful for my friend's labor of love.

While doing the mold remediation work for three months this winter, I came to understand the heart of God toward spiritually sick people. In the case of the ten lepers we read in Luke 17, Lord Jesus healed them of their incurable disease just by His word. However, the prescription for leprous homes recorded in Leviticus 14 requires that the stones and interior plasters of the affected areas be removed and discarded outside of the camp and be replaced with new stones and plaster before the priest's final inspection and approval. It is similar to the remediation process that my friend and I did on my country mobile home. When a child of God has a serious spiritual problem, God does not give up on him/her. Rather, He goes through a period of patient and expert labor of curing the sickness so that the joy of salvation and healthy spiritual condition are restored in the person. The three months of labor through the cold winter days was well worth it because it taught me this aspect of God's kindness and tender love toward sick children.

Are there leprous, mold infestations in our life that are spreading toxic elements to our relationships with our families, friends, and churches, quietly but continually while their magnitudes keep growing? As most people are insensitive to mold presence in this country, most of us are not aware that we have such toxic infestations in the hidden inner parts of our private, spiritual lives. I spent hours asking God to help me see such toxic areas, cut

them out, and fill them with a new, wholesome spirit from His throne. And I wept many times in the process amidst the lonely quietness of Shenandoah Valley.

When King David heard God's scolding about his immoral relationship with Bathsheba through the prophet Nathan, he repented of his sin and offered earnest prayer to God as follows:

*[Psalm 51:1-3] Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.*

Let us also honestly admit the presence of leprous regions that are like black molds in the inner depths of our soul. And let us plead to God for their surgical removal and healing through His kindness as David did. God will not forsake us but have compassion on us, remove the infestations, and restore us like new with new flesh, new life, and a new spirit. Amen.