### Leviticus

## Chapter 21

1And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:  
  
 ‘Speak to the Priests among the sons of Aaron and tell them that they must not [show themselves to be mourning] the dead in front of the nation. 2They may [mourn] for a close relative such as a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, 3or for a loved virgin sister who isn’t married… They may [show that they mourn] these.  
  
 4‘However, they may not show their mourning in front of the people by appearing unclean. 5They must not shave their heads bald on top, nor may they shave their beards or cut gashes in their flesh over the dead. 6They must be holy to their God, and they may not profane the Name of their God.  
  
 ‘They must [remain] holy, because they offer the sacrifices to Jehovah as gifts to their God.  
  
  
 7‘They must not take a woman who is a whore, one who’s been violated, or one who’s been divorced, because these [men] are holy to their God Jehovah.  
  
 8‘They must remain holy, because they offer the gifts to their God Jehovah. They must be holy… For I, Jehovah (who makes them holy), am holy.  
  
  
 9‘Also, if the daughter of a man who’s a Priest dirties herself by having immoral sex, she is dirtying the name of her father, and she must be burned in a fire.  
  
 10‘The Priest who’s the chief one among his brothers – the one who’s been anointed by having oil poured over his head and who’s been made perfect to wear the [Priestly] garments – must not remove the turban from his head, or tear his clothes, 11or even get close to a dead body… No, he may not profane himself even for his own father or mother!  
  
 12‘He may not leave the Holy Place and he must not make the Holy Place of his God unclean, because he wears God’s holy anointing oil… I am Jehovah.  
  
  
 13‘[A Priest] may only take a woman who’s a virgin and from his own tribe… 14Not a widow, a divorcee, someone who’s been violated, or a whore. He may only take a virgin from his own people as his woman.  
  
 15‘He must not profane his offspring among his people… For I am Jehovah who makes him holy.’  
  
  
16Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said,  
  
 17‘Tell Aaron this:  
  
 ‘Throughout the generations, no man of your tribe who’s physically imperfect may be used to offer the gifts to his God... 18No one may be used who is:  
  
 • Blind,  
 • Lame,  
 • Has a disfigured nose,  
 • Deformed ears,  
 • 19A crippled hand or foot,  
 • 20Is a hunchback,  
 • Has cataracts,  
 • Has lost his eyelashes,  
 • Has open sores,  
 • Has a birthmark, or  
 • Has lost a testicle.  
  
 21‘None of Aaron the Priest’s offspring who is physically imperfect may be used to offer sacrifices to your God because of an imperfection. Such ones must not go in to offer the gifts to God, 22for these gifts are very holy.  
  
 ‘He may eat the holy things, 23but he must not approach the veil or get close to the Altar because of his handicap. He must not dishonor the Holy Place of his God… For I am Jehovah who makes him holy.’  
  
24This is what Moses told Aaron, his sons, and all the children of IsraEl.