

6B '15

Compassion and forgiveness are “being holy as the Lord our God is holy”

We all want to be “*holy as the Lord our God is holy.*”
Sometimes it’s even fun

(I) Background

(A) **Scholars** are quite certain that biblical leprosy is not modern leprosy, but a repulsive, scaly condition, something like psoriasis. At that time, anyone with a physical imperfection was thought to be “*not holy as the Lord is holy,*” so they had to live outside the camp. Anyone with this “leprosy” was considered distanced from God. Today, distancing ourselves from God is spiritual leprosy.

(II) How do we remain inside the camp and “be holy as the Lord our God is holy”?

(A) We are “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” in the **Catholic Church** when as Pope Francis says, “*We believe in a God who is not a Catholic God, but a God who is the Father of all*”

- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
- (2) what constitutes spiritual leprosy in our Church today?

(B) We are “*holy as Lord our God is holy*” in **Family Life** when we uphold the sacredness of all life: the weak, the elderly, the unborn and newly unborn as well

- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
- (2) what constitutes spiritual leprosy in family life today?

(C) We are “*holy as Lord our God is holy*” in our **Economic System** when as Pope John Paul II teaches in (*Centesimus Annus*, 1991): “*The economy should serve the people, not the other way*

around.

While people have a basic right to economic initiative and private property, this right has its limits. No person has the right to amass excessive wealth when others lack basic necessities of life.”

- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
- (2) what constitutes spiritual leprosy in economic system today?

(D) We are “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” in the field of **Politics** when we engage in honest and civil political dialogue rather than yell at and belittle political opponents

- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
- (2) what constitutes spiritual leprosy in our politics today?

- (E) We are “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” regarding our **Environment** when we protect the earth’s environment and its resources for the sake of all, especially our children and grandchildren
- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
 - (2) what constitutes sp. leprosy reg: our environment today?
- (F) We are “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” in **ourselves** when we stop judging how bad we are and start seeing good God is in us
- (1) none of us want to be distanced from God
 - (2) what constitutes spiritual leprosy within ourselves?

(III) We have been considering how to be “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” from a theological standpoint

- (A) Now let’s consider what being “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*” might look like today from an everyday-life perspective:
- (B) We are “*holy as the Lord our God is holy*”:

1. when we accept that some days we’re the pigeon, and some days we’re the statue
2. when we keep our words soft and sweet in case we have to eat them
3. when we read stuff that will make us look good if we die in the middle of it
- 4. when we drive carefully, knowing it’s not only cars that can be recalled
by their Maker
5. knowing that when we lend someone \$20 and never see them again, it was worth it
6. when our sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others
- 7. when we never buy a car we can’t push
8. when we never put both feet in our mouth at the same time, because then we wouldn’t have a leg to stand on
9. knowing since it’s the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late
- 10. when we remember it’s the second mouse that gets the cheese
11. knowing that when everything’s coming our way, we’re in the wrong lane
12. when birthdays are good for us, knowing that the more we have, the longer we live
- 13. when some mistakes are too much fun to make only once
14. when we can enjoy the scenery on a detour
15. when we are the kind of person that when our feet hit the floor in the morning, the devil says~~ “Oh _____, they’re up!”

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