



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Leviticus 16 | Kevin DeYoung

“A Tale of Two Goats”

Easter Morning, April 9, 2023

*Big Idea:* In Christ, our sins are both forgiven (1<sup>st</sup> goat) and forgotten (scapegoat).

### Outline ~ 3 Essential Truths

- God is holier than you think.
  - Sin is more pervasive than you realize.
  - Grace is better than you can imagine.
1. What is something that gets regular buildup in your house that needs to get cleared out?
  2. **Sinners:** Kevin mentioned that this sermon was for those who know that they are sinners. That is, those who are quick to recognize their own sin rather than finding it in others. Why is understanding this so important for our own happiness? ...a church's healthiness?
  3. **Center:** This chapter is the thematic and theological center of the book of Leviticus, and even the entire Pentateuch (Gen-Deut). Why so much prominence?
  4. **God's Prerogative:** Lev 16 is the thematic and theological center of the entire Pentateuch. Kevin said, “This chapter gives to us the essential truths of how God views the world, how God views us, how God views our problems, and therefore how *we* should view the world, God, and ourselves.” What are the things that try to compete with God's Word for authority in our lives? What kinds of things do those competing authorities tell you ought to be your biggest concerns?
  5. **God-ness of God:** Kevin said (paraph), “If we could really see God, it is an absolute certainty that every one of us would conclude, ‘I have vastly underestimated the God-ness of God.’” How does this effect the way you go about your life this week?
  6. **Humble:** Read Jas 4:6. “When the high priest represents God to the people, then he wears all the royal get-up (...) When he represents the people to God, he comes in his pajamas.” Why the difference? Why is that significant?
  7. **Assurance:** Read Ps 103:10-12. Kevin described concentric circles of holiness in Israel.<sup>1</sup> “Only on this day do we see traffic going all the way in and all the way out (...) All the way in for God's forgiveness, all the way out that God would forget.” How might this help those of us who struggle to be assured of their salvation?
  8. **Scapegoat for Us:** “On Good Friday, all God's people (past, present, and future) laid a hand on God's anointed as if to confess their sins upon Christ. He bore them for us. A Passover Lamb for us. A Scapegoat for us. “The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” How did Leviticus 16 help you better understand Christ's sacrifice on Calvary? How does it encourage you?

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<sup>1</sup> (1) Holy of Holies (2) Tabernacle (3) Courtyard (4) Camp (5) Outside the Camp (6) Wilderness

9. **Prayer:** The high priest would lay his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confess the sins of the people. Kevin described what the high priestly were confessing over our sins today:

“Oh Lord, our great and merciful God. We have sinned against you and done what is wrong in your sight. And among us this day are adulterers, cheats, gossips, liars. We have been lazy in prayer, and hard-working in sin. We have spent more time in front of our phones than in the Word of God. We have had our passions kindled hotter for sports than for a Savior. We have yelled at little children, we have disrespected our parents, we’ve been unforgiving towards our spouse. We have grown bitter toward friends and family. We have tried to create our identity out of sex and sensuality. We have been quick to judge the motives and attitudes of others. We have been slow to admit our own faults. We have lived for the approval of others and ignored your commands. We have been proud of our Bible knowledge, arrogant in our righteousness, haughty in parading our virtue and compassion. We have turned grace into license. We have turned blessing into boasting. We have turned privilege into presumption. We have not trusted your Word. We have twisted the hard parts of the Bible to say what we want it to say. We’ve ignored the obvious parts so we can live as we want to live. We’ve disbelieved your promises, been angry with your providences, we’ve doubted your provision, and we are not the people that we want to be. We are not the people we seem to be. We are not the people we thought we would be. Our iniquities have gone over our heads, and they are a burden too heavy for us to bear.”

What stands out to you from this prayer? Feel free to take a few minutes as a group to praise Christ for bearing our sins.