

# Numbers 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

## Analysis

---

The case of men defiled by dead bodies unable to keep Passover introduces a problem requiring divine solution. Their ceremonial uncleanness prohibited participation in the holy feast, yet they desired to obey. The Hebrew tame (unclean) created an impossible situation—they could not become clean quickly enough. This reveals the inadequacy of the ceremonial system to fully accommodate human frailty. Their plea for inclusion (verse 7) shows genuine piety, leading to divine accommodation (verses 9-11). This pictures how Christ's work removes the barrier between holy God and defiled sinners.

## Historical Context

---

Defilement from dead bodies required seven days of purification (Numbers 19:11-12), making same-day Passover participation impossible. The dilemma was genuine: obey the purity law and miss Passover, or participate in Passover while ceremonially unclean and profane the holy feast. Both options violated God's law until He provided a solution.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

### Study Questions

---

1. How does this dilemma illustrate situations where God's commands seem to conflict?
2. What does God's gracious solution teach about His heart toward sincere worshipers?
3. How does Christ resolve the tension between God's holiness and our defilement?

### Interlinear Text

---

וְיָהּ י' H1961	אֲנָשׁ יִם H582	אֲשֶׁר H834	הֵיוּ H1961	טְמֵאִים H2931		
And there were	certain men			who were defiled		
לְנֶפֶשׁ H5315	אֶדָם H120	וְלֹא H3808	יָכֹל H3201	לַעֲשׂוֹת H6213	הַפֶּסַח H6453	
by the dead body	of a man		that they could	not keep	the passover	
בַּיּוֹם H3117	וָהָא H1931	וַיָּקֻרְבוּ H7126	וְלִפְנֵי H6440	מֹשֶׁה H4872	וְלִפְנֵי H6440	אַהֲרֹן H175
on that day		and they came	and before	Moses	and before	Aaron
בַּיּוֹם H3117	הַהוּא H1931					
on that day						

### Additional Cross-References

---

**Exodus 18:15** (References Moses): And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:

**Numbers 27:2** (References Moses): And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

**Numbers 5:2** (Parallel theme): Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead:

**Numbers 19:16** (Parallel theme): And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

**Numbers 19:11** (Parallel theme): He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.

**Exodus 18:19** (Parallel theme): Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

**Exodus 18:26** (References Moses): And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

**John 18:28** (Parallel theme): Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

**Numbers 19:18** (Parallel theme): And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave: