

Exodus 30:17–21
How the Gospel Keeps us Clean
February 5, 2012
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. How Can we Keep Our Hands Clean?

James 4:1–12

...do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands**, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. ...if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law...

Key Idea

The good news of Jesus Christ is powerful enough to cleanse our selfish motives!

II. The Symbolism of the Bronze Basin

A. Washing with Water

Exodus 29:1, 4–5a

¹ “Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate [the priests]...⁴ You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and **wash them with water**.⁵ Then you shall take the garments...

Hebrews 10:19–22

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have

a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts *sprinkled clean* (Cf. Ezekiel 36:22–28) from an evil conscience and our ***bodies washed with pure water***.

B. Bronze Basin Used for Repeated Washings

Exodus 30:17–21

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses,¹⁸ “You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, **for washing**. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it,¹⁹ with which Aaron and his sons shall ***wash their hands and their feet***.²⁰ When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, ***they shall wash with water, so that they may not die***.²¹ ***They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die***. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations.”

III. How God Actually Washes Us

A. Word & Spirit (Distinct but overlapping ideas)

Ephesians 5:25–27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by ***the washing of water with the word***,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Titus 3:5–7

⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the ***washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit***,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...

Ephesians 6:17b

...and the *sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*... (Creation, Our Call to Faith...)

B. Cleansed from Sin not Dirt

Acts 22:16 (Ananias/Saul)

¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and *wash away your sins*, calling on his name.⁷

1 Peter 3:21–4:2

²¹ **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body **but** as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

¹ **Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking**, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh **no longer for human passions but for the will of God**.

IV. Application

- A. The Gospel Humbles Us (Grace Alone!)
- B. The Gospel Provides for Us (Daily; Real Heart Level Change is Possible)

John 17:16–17

¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**

“The church exists both *through* the gospel and *for* the gospel.”^{*}

- C. The Gospel Equips Us for Service
 - 1. For God’s Gospel

^{*} Tim Chester and Steve Timmins. *Total Church* (33).

“In his book *The Mission of God*, Chris Wright shows that the Bible story [has a] radical, God-centered perspective [that]... constantly forces us to open our eyes to the big picture, rather than shelter in the cozy narcissism of our own small worlds.

- We ask, ‘Where does God fit into the story of my life?’, when the real question is, ‘Where does my little life fit into this great story of God’s mission?’
- I may wonder what kind of mission God has for me, when I should be asking what kind of me God wants for his mission.” †

2. For People (Cultivating a Servants Heart)

1 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

RightNow Ministries:

“Others before myself, Christ before all!”

"Helping people trade in the pursuit of the American-Dream for a world that desperately needs Christ"

† Ibid. (35)