

BETTER *word*

Week 4 - Clean

Matthew 8:1-4

¹When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ²A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Jesus moves **TOWARDS** those others run **FROM**.

Jesus makes **CLEAN** only what we bring to him.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

1 John 1:8-9 (TPT)

⁸If we boast that we have no sin, we're only fooling ourselves and are strangers to the truth. ⁹But if we freely admit our sins when his light uncovers them, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins because of Christ, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 51:7-10 (TPT)

⁷Purify my conscience! Make this leper clean again! Wash me in your love until I am pure in heart ⁸Satisfy me in your sweetness, and my song of joy will return. The places within me you have crushed will rejoice in your healing touch. ⁹Hide my sins from your face; erase all my guilt by your saving grace. ¹⁰Create a new, clean heart within me. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you.

How to take Jesus up on the invitation to COME to Him:

- 1) Admit that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue through Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life in God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

- :: As you reflect on life this past week, where have you seen God at work? What are some areas where you sense He's been working in you?
- :: What about this weekend's message was most impactful for you? What surprised you?
- :: Re-read Matthew 8:1-4.
- :: What are your initial observations from this passage? Do you resonate with this man in any way? How?
- :: Pastor Justin said, "Jesus moves towards those others run from."
- :: How does this both encourage and challenge you today?
- :: Is there an area that Jesus is inviting you to bring to him so that He can transform it and make it clean? Take a moment to re-read 1 John 1:8-9 and take a courageous step to bring this area to Jesus, admitting your sin to him.
- :: Embrace the Better Word of 'CLEAN' that Jesus speaks over you today.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

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