

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Redemption When Unclean Touches Clean • Week of October 1

## Introduction

There is nothing quite like getting cleaned up after a long productive day in the yard or cleaning up the house or clearing out the garage. It is amazing how many things you find!... things you thought were lost. There is something about cleaning, clearing, organizing, and repurposing. It feels great; and after getting cleaned up, it is wonderful to get into a cozy bed with crisp clean sheets. God has made us desire (need) physical, bodily cleansing. Like children and babies, it seems we sleep better if we can get all the dirt and grime of the day washed away. Even our doggies like a good scrubbing - it comforts them, soothes them and makes them feel loved.

## Background

Isaiah speaks words of comfort and healing at a time when the people of Jerusalem had become quite dirty. Like an unfaithful wife, Jerusalem had persisted in loving the nasty foreign gods of surrounding nations. Because Jerusalem despised her love, she found herself filthy, and suffering the consequences of infidelity: destruction and exile. But now the Lord says, "... listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, 'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you' " (Isaiah 43:1-2).

God is even more excited than we are when He is about to do a new thing. Throughout the book of Isaiah, though compelled to call out their sin, Isaiah also speaks of how God is about to restore his people to their own land after seventy years of exile. Israel's return from captivity will be like their exodus from Egypt years before. They will need to be cleansed and dressed in new clothes. Once again, the Lord will 'remove the chains of slavery' from their necks. Though at first, their years in exile seemed hopeless, certainly unproductive, God has been hard-at-work all along, gently purifying them in the furnace of suffering. God cleanses their land through fires of judgment, in preparation of their return. All this so that 'the world will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer the Mighty One of Israel' (Isaiah 49:26b).

Read Isaiah 52:1-12

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you in these verses?

## Reflection

The people of Judah and Israel had lived among unclean people in an unclean foreign land. According to Leviticus, when that which is unclean touches that which is clean, then that which is clean becomes unclean. Remember the words of Isaiah when upon the onset of God's call over his life, Isaiah sees a glimpse of the LORD's glory and declares: "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies" (Isiah 6:5). One of the seraphim then flies to Isaiah with a burning coal taken from the altar, and touches his lips in order to remove his guilt and forgive his sin. In heaven's courts, where God's presence dwells, when that which is unclean is touched by the holiness of God, then that which is unclean becomes clean!

Think about it. Jesus is never afraid to touch unclean people, nor is he afraid of unclean people reaching out and touching him. Jesus spends much of his time in public ministry - teaching and healing people in public and serving in and amongst the crowds. Further, Jesus is not afraid of death or when people are possessed or oppressed by demonic spirits. In fact, when Jesus shows up, darkness is exposed and demons recognize him as 'the Son of the Most High' (and tremble); death bows upon his command and gives up its captives. It is no wonder, then, that on the numerous occasions when that which is unclean comes into contact with the holy Son of God, Jesus is never made unclean. Instead, all those who have been unclean, become clean upon the touch of the Savior. Healing happens, the dead are raised, and demons flee.

Read Mark 5:1-43 (may divide into two readings - vv 1-20, and vv 21-43)

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

## In Closing

Are you in need of purification? Jesus has the power to cleanse your hearts and your mind, your guilty conscience. Think of it as the Lord changing the filter in your thoughts; once you are united with the Lord Jesus Christ, you have the Holy Spirit, this means access into the mind of Christ, who for our benefit was made 'to be wisdom itself' (1 Corinthians 1:30-31, 2:16). God will bless you so that you, in turn, can be a blessing to others. Did you know that you can actually bless God when you choose to love and bless others. The Bible also says a way to remain pure is by looking forward to Christ's return. (see 1 John 3:1-3).

The man Legion, in Mark, chapter five, immediately began to witness for the Lord when Jesus said, "... go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been" (Mark 5:19). The synagogue leader, Jairus and his wife, rejoiced to receive back from death their twelve-year-old daughter – all because they chose faith over the dark clouds of fear (Mark 5:36, 40-43). And according to Jesus' own words, the unnamed woman who had suffered with bleeding for twelve years, became clean - healed and restored as a daughter! - all because of her faith to press through the crowd and touch the hem of his robe: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over" (Mark 5:34).

Close by reading together –

"Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm? My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all" (Isaiah 53:1-6).

## One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

- Oct. 1 Isaiah 62:6-65:25, Philippians 2:19-3:4, Psalm 73:1-28, Proverbs 24:13-14
- Oct. 2 Isaiah 66:1-24, Philippians 3:5-21, Psalm 74:1-23, Proverbs 24:15-16
- Oct. 3 Jeremiah 1:1-2:30, Philippians 4:1-23, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 24:17-20
- Oct. 4 Jeremiah 2:31-4:18, Colossians 1:1-17, Psalm 76:1-12, Proverbs 24:21-22
- Oct. 5 Jeremiah 4:19-6:15, Colossians 1:18-2:7, Psalm 77:1-20, Proverbs 24:23-25
- Oct. 6 Jeremiah 6:16-8:7, Colossians 2:8-23, Psalm 78:1-31, Proverbs 24:26
- Oct. 7 Jeremiah 8:8-9:26, Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 24:27

# Redemption

**Text: Isaiah 52 & 53, Leviticus 5, Numbers 19:20-22,  
Acts 10:9-28**

## PLAIN TRUTH

When \_\_\_\_\_ touches \_\_\_\_\_,  
it is totally \_\_\_\_\_!

1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Bring a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ issues \_\_\_\_\_.

October 1, 2023