

Morning Sermon October 19, 2014

Luke 19:45-48

“What is NEEDED: Cleansing and Filling”

I. We NEED to be clean, particularly, cleansed of sin –

1. This passage, is typically called “the cleansing of the Temple” even though the word cleansing is not in the text, it is commonly inserted as a non-Biblical title within Bibles –

Cleansing the Temple

⁴⁵ Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, ⁴⁶ saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ” ⁴⁷ And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, ⁴⁸ and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

2. The driving out of ... the thieves who were buying and selling was the cleansing! Getting rid of sin is cleansing:

¹⁶ "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, ... ¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:16-18 NKJ)

3. This PASSAGE is one of many that presents SIN as a nearly impossible STUBBORN STAIN –

A. Note the repetition –

Jesus has already cleansed the Temple once before, at the beginning of His earthly ministry – John 2:11-21

Why did Jesus have to cleanse the Temple more than once? After the first cleansing the THIEVES came right back!

B. This coming back nature of evil is something that happens a lot, notice the demon (s) –

⁴³ "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴ "Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

⁴⁵ "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

(Matthew 12:43-45 NKJ)

4. This (stubborn sin) is the reason for the NEED of Deuteronomy (2nd Law) –

At least part of the reason they were blessed with a second giving of the Law, was they did not keep it the first time. The entire first generation of Israel that came out of Egypt, except for Joshua and Caleb died in the wilderness. In Deuteronomy God is giving a 2nd generation, a 2nd chance –

5. Yet, Israel, God's people failed again and again –

The Book of Judges -

⁷ So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs. ⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years. ⁹ When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. (Judges 3:7-9 NKJ)

¹² And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. (Judges 3:12 NKJ)

NKJ Judges 4:1 When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD (Judges 4:1 NKJ)

NKJ Judges 6:1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, (Judges 6:1 NKJ)

⁶ Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. (Judges 10:6 NKJ)

NKJ Judges 13:1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. (Judges 13:1 NKJ)

6. *Even discipline did not seem to help much –*

⁴ Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward. ⁵ Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints.

⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, *There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.* (Isaiah 1:4-6 NKJ)

7. *In Luke's Gospel, after Jesus had cleansed the Temple, you see sin aching to come in again –*

⁴⁷ And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, ⁴⁸ and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

Notice in the first couple verses of chapter 20, they do give up, sin keeps PUSHING!

II. Jesus is more than willing to cleanse from sin –

1. *He uses force, even violence to cleanse the Temple – Luke 19:45*

¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. (John 2:15 NKJ)

2. *He goes to the CROSS to CLEANSE us from sin –*

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

This is what the Lord's Supper points to; it is what He wants us to remember!

3. *God calls us to "reason" about cleansing -*

... ¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1: 18 NKJ)

4. *If we are His, our holiness (partly our spiritual CLEANESS) was His goal / purpose for us from all eternity –*

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Ephesians 1:4 NKJ)

5. *This is something we should desire for ourselves –*

¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1Peter 1:15-16 NKJ)

III. Jesus is more than willing, to work for our filling –

Luke 19: 47 And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, ⁴⁸ and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

1. *He would have us FILLED with the Word of God –*

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:11 NKJ)

This is why He was teaching in the Temple, He was filling their hearts with God's Word, they filled the Temple to the point that those who wanted to destroy Jesus were "unable to do anything"

2. *He would have us filled with the Spirit -*

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (Ephesians 5:18-19 NKJ)

3. *We are taught to pray for a filling with ALL the FULLNESS of God –*

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height-- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJ)

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