

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and... Series, Lesson 43

Lesson Title: Get Clean on the Inside

Take Home Point: Jesus helps us get clean on the inside.

Warm-Up:

Several years ago I was traveling to attend some business meetings. I like to try different restaurants when I travel, especially local non-franchise establishments. One evening I entered a small out-of-the-way place that looked nice enough on the outside. When I got inside and sat down, though, it was a different story. The table had not been wiped off, the carpet was stained and frayed, and the employees seemed uninterested in proper food handling. And when the kitchen door opened as a waiter came through, I looked in and shuddered. Do you think I stayed to eat? Not a chance!

Read: Mark 11:15-19

Observation (What happened?):

Who did Jesus drive out of the temple area?

What was the response of the chief priests and scribes to the actions and teachings of Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Jesus want the merchants and traders cleared from the temple?

What problems might they have been causing?

Insight:

Suppose another person could know all your thoughts for a 24-hour period. How would you feel about that? I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want that even on my best day! And yet that's just the view God has. (Not so sure about that? Read Psalm 139 to get an accurate understanding.) But the wonderful news is that he loves and forgives us anyway! And then he goes a step further! Years ago a songwriter wrote these words:

"He loves us just the way we are today,
But much too much to let us stay that way.
And when he's changed us 'round from what we were before
He still won't love us one bit more."

God's goal isn't simply to rescue us from the consequences of sin; he wants to rescue us from sin's influence and effects. He wants to clean us up as his holy temple.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What in your life does Jesus want you to give to him to clean up? What are you doing to keep your body, mind, heart, and soul clean for his worship?

Who does not want you to clean up your life? How can you overcome their attempts to stop you?