

GOD CAN CLEAN UP YOUR MESS

SCRIPTURE:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him” (Romans 5:8-9).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Wet/Dry Vacuum

SONG: “Nothing But the Blood”

LESSON:

One of the best investments I have ever made is purchasing a Wet/Dry vacuum. It doesn't matter what kind of mess I make, it will do the job. My four-year-old spills a whole bag of rice on the kitchen floor- get the Wet/Dry vac. The toilet overflows in the bathroom, get the Wet/Dry vac. It is almost impossible to create a mess that my Wet/Dry vacuum cannot at least help to clean up. This reminds me of the power that God has to clean up messes of a different kind in my life. Because of God's great gift of sending His Son to die and shed His sin cleansing blood, there is no mess in my life that God cannot clean and forgive.

Forgiveness is something that everyone desires to have, but not everyone receives it. The well-known secular humanist and novelist, Marghanita Laski, once said, “What I envy most about you Christians is your forgiveness; I have nobody to forgive me.” What a sad thought.

There is a story in Spain of a young boy who had done some very bad things and he knew his father would be very angry with him, so he ran away. When the father learned that his son was gone, he set out immediately to find him. After searching for months, he found no sign of his son. As a last resort, he posted an ad in the Madrid newspaper that said, “Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your father.” The next Saturday at noon, 800 Pacos showed up in front of the newspaper office looking for forgiveness and love from their father.

We have all made a mess of our lives. “We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Sometimes we may even question whether or not God would someone like us to be one of His children. This is where God truly demonstrates how much He loves us. He didn't wait for us to get our lives straightened out and become better people. He took the initiative, “in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The apostle Paul understood this. He began as a man who persecuted Christians by putting them in prison and having them killed. It's hard to imagine anyone with a greater sin than that. Paul even said that he was the “foremost of all sinners” (1 Timothy 4:15). But you need to read all of that verse, because he says, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am the foremost of all.” Paul had created a huge mess of all kinds of sins in his life. So if he could have his sins forgiven (Acts 22:16), then we know that you and I can too.

PRAYER: Thank you for being willing to clean up my sinful messes. Please forgive us when we do wrong.

MAIN MESSAGE:

One of the greatest things about becoming a Christian is knowing that there is not any mess that I have made in my life that God cannot clean up, nor any sin too big that He will not forgive.