

Fine China

Scripture:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Materials List:

- (1) China
- (1) Everyday dishes (with cracks)

Main Message:

As God's people we have been set apart for a special purpose.

Song: *Purer in Heart, O God*

Lesson:

When I got engaged, my parents told my then fiancée and me that they would like to get us china for a wedding gift. It was our very first gift and we excitedly went to the store and picked out a pattern. I took great care of that china the first years of our marriage, putting it out on display and making sure it didn't get dusty. But, even in those early days, it was used only a handful of times.

The China only came out on special occasions because it was special. The "everyday" dishes were used, stained, and eventually chipped or broken. I did not want that for my china. Eight sets had come at a hefty price for my parents (especially when added to the expense of a wedding) and that generosity reminded me that I was special to them.

I think we are kind of like fine china to our God. We are indeed special. So special that God gave His son to die for us. What a hefty price! We, who were once used, stained, and broken, have been transformed into something beautiful and whole. Now, as the bride of Christ, we have been set out to display the love of God. We are HOLY.

However, we are not meant to be just an idle item on display. Then we would get dusty! Just like the china, we have been set aside for a special job. We are to make sure people are fed the gospel. We should be working to serve a nourishing meal from a beautiful plate.

Sadly, my china is now in a cupboard, coming out even less often than it did years ago. While in the cupboard, no one can see its beauty and it serves no real purpose. It comes out on special occasions and then goes back. This is not good enough for God. We can't come out of a cupboard every once in a while. The good news we have to share is too important to keep shut away.

As Christians, we have been through a wonderful transformation that has set us apart from the world. But we are still living in the world to serve a purpose. God loves the dirtiest, most broken of dishes and he wants us to tell them that they can be cleansed and made whole. Our task now is to be fine china dishes, holy and set apart, and in use every day.

Prayer: Ask God to help your family act in ways that display holiness.