

Tea

Scripture:

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone. (Matthew 15:18-20)

Materials List:

- (1) Tea Bag
- (1) Mug
- (1) Hot Water

Main Message:

One tea bag plus a bit of hot water, and the true nature of the tea is unmasked. The same is true of us! Get us into a bit of hot water and our hearts are shown.

Song: *Angry Words*

Lesson:

A tea bag is a funny thing. You can't really see through it, but you can catch a glimpse of what's in there. It's only in hot water that you can really tell what is concealed beneath the stiff paper. As soon as the hot water hits the bag, the leaves unfurl within and release their flavor, antioxidants, tannins, etc.

Likewise, when we are in hot water, our true nature is revealed. Sometimes we don't like what we see but we excuse bad behavior as an exception brought out by the stress we are under. Jesus said, though, that what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart (Matthew 15:18-20). During our usual day-to-day lives, we may easily conceal what heart conditions plague us (sometimes even without our own knowledge), but add a bit of hot water and what lies within soon unfurls, releasing an ugly mess and defiling our souls.

However, tea is a pleasure! And sometimes what we see when our own hearts are revealed is also a pleasure. Hard times, stress and the hot water occasions of life can cause us to see what is truly important; to lean on God and help our fellow man.

If we want to please our Lord, we must examine ourselves closely and see if we are in His ways (Psalm 26:2, Galatians 6:4). The hot water times of life can help us in the examination. They are vital windows into the condition of our hearts.

Prayer: Thank God for the opportunities provided by hard times. Ask Him to reveal any ungodly ways and to help us change them.