

Cleaning Day

Step 04 – We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Step 06 – We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step 10 – We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Things have associations...a place they belong, where they fit with the respective area for their intended use.

- Kitchen
- Garage
- Hospital
- Bathroom
- Gym
- Theme Park

It would not be uncommon to find something not suited for a given area to say...what's that doing here? It's out of place for its intended use. It's usually noticeable, but not always, and not to everyone. Depends on perspective...and the same could be true in our lives.

Many times there comes a day when we wake up and say something has to change. **It's cleaning day.** Jesus saw such an instance with things out of place, and took action.

Cleaning House		
<p>Matthew 21:12-15 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. 13 And He *said to them, It is written, MY house shall be called A house of prayer; but you are making it a robbers den.</p> <p>14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, Hosanna to the Son of David, they became indignant</p>	<p>Mark 11:15-18 Then they *came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; 16 and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. 17 And He began to teach and say to them, Is it not written, MY house shall be called A house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers den. 18 The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.</p>	<p>John 2:14-22 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, Take these things away; stop making My Fathers house a place of business. 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for Your house will consume me.</p> <p>18 The Jews then said to Him, What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things? 19 Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 The Jews then said, It took forty- six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.</p>

Stephen:

Acts 7:46-50 David found favor in Gods sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. 47 But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. 48 **However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: 49 Heaven is MY throne, And earth is the footstool of MY feet; What kind of house will you build for ME? says the Lord, OR what place is there for MY repose? 50 Was it not MY hand which made all these things?**

Paul:

Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, **does not dwell in temples made with hands;** 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or **do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God,** and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Cleaning Day

If we are Christ followers, going A New Direction...whether we admit it or not our bodies (temples) are probably cluttered with things that shouldn't be there. We abuse our bodies and make deals with ourselves promising to somehow make up for it later, and yet we seldom do. Most times these things become the norm in our life and we accept them even though they are not acceptable according to the master we have chosen to follow.

People Groups also have associations...things that are associated with who they are.

- Doctor
 - Lawyer
 - President
 - Fashion Model
 - Mechanic
 - Christian
- How were those things in the temple a distraction or bad for the temple in that context?
 - What would it look like if Jesus could see into our Temple? He can. Would He want to drive things out of our lives?
 - What is the effect of cleaning house?

Hebrews 4:12-13 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Freedom Points

- The people didn't recognize the things did not belong there, but Jesus did. They had got comfortable in the surrounding. Jesus is the one that knew it had to go. He can also point out what needs to go in our life.
- Christ has the ability to see these things and the power to drive them out
- The things probably didn't come all at once but over time.
- Our temple too can be resurrected if destroyed by things.
- The things being driven out cost somebody something. What will it cost us? If I choose to get rid of _____ what will it cost me?
- Jesus is not mad at us, he hates the sin that is so deeply engrained or cluttering our life
- He didn't leave after he threw them out, He removed the things that didn't belong, came in and began to teach and heal. The children were there singing.
- It is possible to be angry at the proper things and still maintain the identity of who we are.

Walking It Out

- What is in my body (temple) that has no place there; that is out of place for a temple (my body)?
- What needs to be overturned or driven out of your life?
- Can Jesus have permission to do this?
- Allow Christ to bring light to the things in your life (temple) that doesn't belong and talk about it in your small group or with someone you trust.
- Don't wait, do it now!
- Look to Jesus to fill that gap and to teach you his ways