

Wash Your Hands

James 4:6-10

Intro

How are you at washing your hands?

Fact: God changes everything! So what is our posture/response

Answer: Wash your hands!

Transition

Pastor asked me to speak and I've been haunted by the idea of spiritually washing your hands. **How are you at washing your hands, first off, we are tired of hearing about it.**

_____ "This is important let's get serious, let's do it." it's soap, water and time, and something we've already been doing but just got really serious about doing!

What is spiritually washing our hands?

Using our resources, big and small to **draw near to God** through our day!

It's putting in perspective that drawing near to God is a relationship **not** a set of rituals? It's not not once a day but throughout.

Let's pray before we dive into His word.

Our text today is James 4:6-10

Scene

As you turn there... let's set the scene

James the Just (the brother of Jesus) is writing to the church in Jerusalem about living out one's faith and fighting the sway of the world.

Ryrie outlines chapter 4 as

Title: Worldliness, A) It's Cause verse 1-2, B) Its Consequences verses 3-6, C) It's Cure verses 7-10

James is giving us tips/a prescription on how to draw closer to God and therefore fight against

Read James 4:6-10

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw

near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 6-7

James is saying start with humility and intention of seeking God

Approach with humility and point toward God and away from the world

Reread verses 8-10

3 Ways to Help Us Draw Near to God

1. Calm, Slow (Serious)- verse 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Don't just laugh it off and keep going

- a. We cannot ignore sin

- i. 1 Cor. 5:6-8 - *unleavened*

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- ii. Rom. 6:15

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

- iii. Rom. 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- b. Strive to be profitable

- i. 1 Cor. 10:23 - *Everything is permissible*

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

Slowing down, take your faith walk seriously and re-focus

Ex: deep breathe

Resource: Pause app, echo, timer, notes to yourself, pocket cross

2. Connect, Source- verse 8b "Purify your hearts ye double-minded"

The Greek word used here is the combination of the two words saying "two-solved"

- a. We cannot serve 2 masters/straddle the fence

- i. Matt. 6:24

- ii. James 1:6-8

- iii. 1 John 2:15-16

- b. Strive for His provision/promises

- i. Psalm 23

- ii. Jeremiah 17:7-8

- iii. Psalm 42:1

★ **Connect and refocus to God's promises, truth**

Ex: read His word, meditate a verse, remind yourself of His promises

Resource: Pause app, verse cards, youversion app, devotion books

3. Clean, Sanitize- verse 8b "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners"
 - a. We cannot allow unconfessed sin/unburden ourselves
 - i. James 5:16
 - ii. 1 John 1:9
 - iii. James 2:17 - *faith without works is dead*

First audience would be reminded in ritual hand washing about moral and spiritual purity not physical

- b. Strive for ethical purity (keep a small sin account)
 - i. 1 Peter 1:5-8

*We are sinners, so we will **sin** but with God we can sin-less
We are not stuck in the sin cycle*

To wash our hands we must...

Repent, Confess our sins and give them to God

Ex: Arrow prayer

Resources: Accountability community, prayer, covenant eyes, memorize Philippians 4:8

Closing

I want to share a story

In 1846 Ignas Philipp Semmelweis, a young medical graduate was tasked with a problem at the Vienna General Hospital. The mortality rate was 98.4 per 1,000 births at the maternity ward.

His solution was to mandate hand washing by the doctors. Mortality rate went to 36.2 per 1,000 births.

He was rejected and eventually forced into an asylum.

Hand washing wasn't a normally practiced thing until the 1900s.

Why?

Doctors didn't take it seriously and though a clean doctor without visible signs of work was a lazy unethical doctor.

They were too prideful to be called out.

Are we those doctors?

Are we wanting all the glory from the things we do in God's name?

Are we putting our personal relationship with Christ on the back burner.

How are you at washing your hands?