

“Housecleaning”

John 2:12-23

How’s your diet and exercise plan coming along? We’re two weeks into the new year and NOW is a critical time to remain disciplined toward any health-related goals you made for 2014. I’ve lost 7 pounds since thanksgiving! I’m just eating less, cutting back snacking, and when I’m full, I stop eating. It’s been way easier than I imagined. Here’s a Bible verse that applies to me:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

My body has been cluttered with sugar for a very long time. And butter. So, it needs a bit of housecleaning.

We also have other types of cleanliness issues with our lives. Our relationships can get cluttered with anger and selfishness. We can dip into sexual sin, greed, or just good old fashioned “filth” if we don’t keep vigilant. Today’s message is a call to cleanliness. IF our body is the temple (dwelling place) of God, then we need to keep it clean.

As in all other matters, Jesus is our example ... READ John 2:12-23.

Let’s examine this passage with an eye toward housecleaning.

A. Identify and remove the filth.

John 2:13-22 (NLT)

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers’ coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

- Authentic worship can become a money-making thing.
- Vulnerable travelers were being cheated.

B. Renew your passion for God.

¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.” (from Psalm 69:9)

- Where are your passions, lately?
- Ask God to “consume you” with His passions.

C. Settle the “authority” issue in your life.

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”

- This is a great demand to make of Jesus ... what authority do you have to cause such a ruckus?
- What kind of miracle would it take in your life for God to “prove it”?

D. Understand Jesus’ three-day claim.

¹⁹ “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰ “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?”

²¹ But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body.

- The resurrection is the lynch-pin of our faith (1 Corinthians 15:12-20).
- Jesus made a verifiable claim here! Either He would, or would not, live again after being crucified. I believe He is alive today, and that He’s changing me into a better husband and father.

E. Believe the Scriptures and what Jesus said.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

- “I saw it on the internet ... so it must be true!” LOL!
- It’ll never be proven on the internet ... but will you believe Him today?

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, scrub us clean, please. Make us a fit temple for Your presence. In Jesus’ name, amen.”