

Huddle

Stains, Strips, Stars - Stains
March 10, 2013

What spot remover have you found works best for stains?

At times, we get ourselves in a mess where we hope something will remove the stain or change the consequence of our actions.

A stain is:

- A discolored or soiled spot or smudge.
- A blemish on one's moral character or reputation
- A liquid substance applied to wood or other surfaces which penetrates to provide color
- A uncertain derivation, a defect, or a disgrace

Describe the hardest stain you have tried to remove.

Today is Palm Sunday - the day we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. In Jesus day, the people were under the messy tyranny of Roman government. It was easy for them to hope Jesus would restore God's kingdom and rid them of the Romans. They wanted Jesus as spot remover.

David used terms of blot out, wash me, purify me, clean me, remove the stain. It was right for David to feel defiled. By committing adultery and murder, he crossed over the line God had drawn in His law ("transgression"); he missed the mark God had set for him ("sin") and he yielded to his twisted sinful nature ("iniquity"). He willfully rebelled against God, and no atonement was provided in the law for such deliberate sins. David could appeal only to God's mercy, grace, and love .

- "Blot out" refers to a debt that must be paid (erasing a debt in an account book),
- "cleanse" refers to defilement caused by touching something unclean.
- "Wash" refers to the cleansing of dirty clothing (dirty stains)

In the Jewish society of that day, to wash and change clothes marked a new beginning in life. David made such a new start.

Is there an area in your life where you have missed the marked and crossed over into sin?

Just like David our sin requires justification with God.

Jeremiah 2:22 No amount of soap or lye can make you clean. I still see the stain of your guilt. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken! NLT

Our efforts to vindicate ourselves are in vain. They are like filthy, stained clothes which cannot be cleansed by mineral or vegetable lye used years ago.

Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross. His blood is the perfect atonement to redeem your inner man from the spot of sin. Now you can live free from your sin.

They didn't recognize the deeper tyranny of their own sin and the dominion it held over their lives. What dirt is to the outside of the body, sin is to the inside.

Let's see what David said after he was confronted with the hold of sin on his life.

Psalm 51:1-10 Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight ...7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

What sin stain has God already removed from your heart?

Let's Get Real!

We must respond to the promise of God today:

Isaiah 1:18-20 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. NKJV

What were your thoughts as you saw Pastor's illustration?

Pastor shared five steps to respond to God's promise.

- Acknowledge the stain of sin violates God's law - Rom 3:20
- Ask for forgiveness, confess - Romans 10:9,10
- Rely on the Lord's faithfulness and mercy - Lam 3:22
- Appropriate the Blood of Jesus for cleansing - Lev 17:11

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:11-12 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

- Respond with Thanksgiving - 1 Thess 5:18

Where are you within those steps and how can we help you?

Walk it Out

How will you respond to the new freedom you have through Jesus sacrifice?