

The Shores Scrolls

Connecting the weekend sermon to the rest of your week™

Series: Audience with the Almighty

Message: The Power of a Pure Life

Scripture: Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8; James 1:22-25;
Ephesians 5:26; John 13:6-10

In 2003, the United States experienced a hepatitis A outbreak that became the most widespread in recent history. This outbreak was traced back to the use of tainted green onions at a restaurant in Pennsylvania handled by an infected person. In our Exodus passage, God instructs Moses to build a bronze wash basin for the priests to wash their hands and feet during the course of their duties, so that they may not die (v.21). Health concerns notwithstanding, God also used this law to teach the larger lesson of observing a life of purity, both spiritually and physically.

With the command of 30:20 to “wash...so that they may not die” and its reiteration in the very next verse, the seriousness of approaching God in the prescribed manner was underscored with no uncertainty. Even though believers today do not have this elaborate physical ritual to go through, we should still “cleanse” our hearts and our hands before coming into God’s presence.

Our God today is no less holy than He was in the Old Testament and our approach to Him should convey no less respect or sense of awe or amazement.

Big Idea

What God required of the Old Testament priests in terms of purity and holiness is still true for us today.

Insight

The physical requirements or laws that were to be observed in the Old Testament often can be transferred in principle to spiritual observances in the life of the New Testament believer.

Day 1: READ What does it say?

Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8; James 1:22-25; Ephesians 5:26; John 13:6-10

The LORD said to Moses, ¹⁸“You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, ¹⁹with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet. ²⁰When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the LORD, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. ²¹They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations.” Exodus 30:17-21

He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting. Exodus 38:8

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself

and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. James 1:22-25

that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word Ephesians 5:26

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” John 13:6-10

Now that you’ve read the text, write down some observations about it.

Underline in the text above anything that is repeated. Why is it repeated?

Where did the bronze come from to construct the basin?

What is the recurring theme that ties these passages together?

Note the reasons Jesus gives Peter for washing only his feet. What is the significance of this?

Day 2: REFLECT What does it mean?

1. Concerning the command from Exodus that the washing be “a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants.” Why would this be so important? What is the principle that carries forward even today for a New Testament believer?
2. Observe the location of the bronze basin (laver) between the bronze altar and the Tent of Meeting, does this carry any meaning or significance? Why? Explain.
3. Contrast Hebrews 10:22 with the intent behind the Exodus 30:17-21 passage. What truths can we implement in our lives today? How should this change the way we pray and approach God?
4. Why did Jesus state “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean”? What does this mean? Explain.
5. What is the “perfect law, the law of liberty,” found in our James passage?

Day 3: RESPOND How does it apply to me?

1. How did God make himself known to you through this passage(s)? What did you learn about Him?
2. What specifically is God asking you to do from this study of Scripture? Is there a promise to claim, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a command to obey?
3. How do the truths in this study of Scripture apply to . . .

You personally?

The Church?

The world around you?

Day 4: RECORD your thoughts

Use this space to journal your thoughts about the passage and what God is showing you to change in your life.

Day 5: RECALL the memory verse

...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10 ESV

Life Group discussion questions

1. 2 Corinthians 6:16 declares that the believer is the Temple of God today. How should this produce a lifestyle transformation? (Reflect on v. 18; 7:1) Explain

2. Discuss what function the mirror serves in the James passage. What is it a metaphor of? Explain.

3. The central thrust of this lesson is purity, outline what this looks like in the life of a believer in today's culture.

4. What does the bronze basin picture in the New Testament?

5. Based on Ephesians 5:26-27, what is the three-fold outcome intended by Christ for the believer today from being washed with water by the Word?

How to Use This Resource

The Shores Scrolls is a spiritual formation tool that helps you connect the weekend sermon to the rest of your week. It is designed for individual study, small group interaction, and family conversation around God's word.

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Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go and make disciples

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