

¹ *“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.*

² *“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.*

A CLEANSING FOUNTAIN

Wash your hands. When you use bathroom, be sure to wash your hands when you're done. When you shake everyone's hand after church, it's probably a good idea to wash your hands before you touch any food. When you do some work in the garage or in the yard, and your hands get dirty, you want to wash them as soon as you come in.

Having clean hands isn't just polite. It's a way to stay healthy. So I wash my hands after I change a diaper. I wash my hands a lot whenever I'm cooking. With kids around the house especially, soap and hand sanitizer get used a lot!

Have dirty hands and get sick. Have clean hands and stay healthy—at least, healthier.

But tonight, it's not just about hands that God's concerned. It's about your soul. *“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?”* the Psalmist asks (in Psalm 24). And he answers, *“He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”*

And that leaves no one! Our hands and our hearts are dirty. They're filthy actually. Our hands are grimy with our dirty deeds. Our foul mouths pour out disgusting words of hate and slander. Our minds are polluted with dirty thoughts. And no amount of water, no soap, could get our souls clean. There is no way!!

The farmer came in from the field. He was busy spreading manure, when it was time to take a break for lunch. Of course, his hands were filthy. He needed to wash up first. And he wanted to make sure he washed up well. He didn't want to eat any of what was on his hands. He would surely be sick if that got into his body.

Well, friends, you and I are sick. We're sick with sin because of what has entered into our souls. The prophet Isaiah described how even our “cleanest” by nature is disgusting to God: *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...”* (Isaiah 64:6)

And nothing we do can ever scrub clean the filth from within our souls. While we might be able to hide it from others, but we can't hide it from God.

So, what are we to do? Nothing.

We're to do nothing because God has already done it for us. Zechariah prophesied, *“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”*

“On that day...” On what day? Well, if we back up just a bit to look at the context, we get our text from last Sunday: **“On that day... They will look on me, the one they have pierced...”** (Zechariah 12:9-10) In other words on Good Friday. Literally the Hebrew says, “On that day there will be a fountain,” but it could also be translated, “On that day **he** will be a fountain.” You know what happened on Good Friday. Jesus was sacrificed for you and me. His head, his hands, his feet, his side were pierced. And his blood flowed.

And you know the results of that fountain: **“On that day a fountain will be opened... to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”** Jesus has washed us and made us clean. He has made us clean from every sin—of our hands, of our mouths, of our thoughts! He has cleansed us from every impurity and made us perfect and holy!

Tonight, when we drink from the cup, we also drink from the fountain as we drink his very blood for the forgiveness of our sins! And we trust that as God he can be in heaven and in the cup and in our mouths. We take him at his Word. And we rejoice that by his blood we are made clean again.

My hand sanitizer here claims that it kills 99.9% of germs. While comforting, it’s not really complete. What about that .1% that makes us all sick? But with Jesus, he gives us an eternal guarantee that he removes not just 99.9% of our sins, but all of them. 100%! Nothing remains! Not even a microscopic sin (if there were such a thing) that no one but God can see. God has seen them all. And God has removed them all!

So tonight, as you receive the blood of our Lord, or as you hear the Lord’s words of forgiveness spoken to you, be assured that 100% of your sins are forgiven. Rejoice that Satan—that “spirit of uncleanness”—has lost his grip on you! Rejoice that you know that one day soon he will be defeated once and for all and you will go to be with our Savior at his eternal banquet feast in glory!

And cleansed, my friends, let’s live the clean lives that he enables us to live. Let’s strive to stay clean and worship our Lord with lives of obedience lived in thanksgiving for Jesus our cleansing fountain. He was willing to give his life for us, let’s live our lives for him. He gave us his all, let’s expend all our effort glorify his name and telling others about the cleansing fountain that Jesus us for them too. Then they might join us knowing the peace of forgiveness. Then they might join us to sing:

**“There is a fountain filled with blood—
Immanuel was slain—
And sinners who are washed there-in
Lose ev’ry guilty stain.”** (CW 112:1)

In Jesus’ name, dear friends, and in his cleansing blood, Amen.