

Today we look at our preparation for worship each week.

"When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, 10 the LORD said to Moses, Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments 11 and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people." Exodus 19:9b-11

NUGGET - In this text from Exodus, we see God telling Moses how to instruct the people to prepare for a visit from God most high. Notice that God:

- a. Gives them 3 days notice (significant in light of how much time Jesus spent in the tomb!)
- b. Tells Moses to ***let the people wash their garments***. Not that God is concerned with appearances but rather that the people take the time to let their hearts catch up to the occasion that is about to overtake them. Three days of washing clothes gives them three days to prepare their hearts in "preparation" for meeting with God.
- c. That God Himself will come down the mountain to the people.

Think this week on your preparations for coming to meet with God on Sunday. If you read this by Thursday you will have about three days to "*wash your clothes*" and prepare your heart. Remember that Who is coming to meet you in church on Sunday is God Himself.

Who you are meeting with, guides how extensively you prepare for that meeting doesn't it? Think about when you went out on a date the first or second time. You made sure to leave enough time to *prepare* yourself so that you could make the best impression you're capable of. Our *preparation* to meet with God in worship of Him, and to do the work of prayer in our church that He's given us to do, that should give us reason to stop and think and be mindful of Who is meeting with us when we gather together on Sunday morning.

APPLICATION - Until Sunday consider ways of keeping your focus on Who you are meeting when we gather together for worship.

1. When you do your laundry, stop and think of the gifts that God has given you for this task; health and ability, soap and water, and even the clothes that need washing.
2. Perhaps offer to do laundry yourself for someone who has limitations of time or physical ability this week.
3. As you do your wash, think of the cleansing of your heart that God has done for you in Jesus Christ. So often our soap products talking of super cleansing power - be reminded of the truly supreme cleansing power of the blood of Christ from the cross for your sins that prepares you to meet God.

PRAY - Take time right now on your own and give thanks for God's provision for the preparation of our hearts to be cleansed by the power of Christ so that we may be prepared to meet Him on Sunday and give Him the honor, glory and praise due His name.

GOING DEEPER

As we pointed out in the NUGGET God gave the people 3 days for preparation and that that corresponds with the number of days Jesus was in the tomb. It also matches a "number" of other things in scripture, not the least of which is the Trinity! God has used 3's significantly in history in various ways that show He is not random or capricious. That can be a lesson for us as well.

Our worship, and our preparation for worship, should not be random or capricious either. Habits can be good things, but habits can also lull us into a sense of sameness or dryness. God never intends for the rituals and habits used in worship to become an excuse for not being engaged and active in worship. God, while He tells us in Hebrews 13:8 that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and in James 1:17 we're told that in God there no variation due to change, God still is not stuck, staid and strapped down by stuffiness.

It tends to be *us* who become dried up by being unengaged. We let form and habit prevent us from the preparation of our hearts, minds and bodies for worship. I'm not talking about the outward forms or habits that we use in worship; I'm talking about our own personal preparation, or the habit of a lack of preparation that can bring us into dry times or seasons in our worship.

Perhaps building some new habits would be useful. Look over [Joshua 1:1-10](#) and [1 Kings 6:1-22](#) and [1 Chronicles 9:28-31](#) and [2 Chronicles 29:20-36](#) and [Psalm 5](#) and [Isaiah 40:1-5](#) and [Mark 14:12-16](#) and [Acts 10:9-29](#) and [Ephesians 2:4-16](#) and [Hebrews 10:1-25](#) and [Revelation 21:1-27](#).

- Now what various thoughts come to your mind as to new habits you might employ in preparation for your coming to worship?
- Of those various things pick two or three that might be practical and jot them down.
- Now pick one of those that seem most reasonable that you would think could be useful for you and consider how to implement that in your weekly preparation for coming to worship.

On Sunday, bring your list and be *prepared* to let others in on what you may see as helpful in preparing to come to worship; to worship the God who has prepared a place for you in His heavenly home by the blood of Christ.

God's peace on the rest of your week, Pastor Rhodes