



# Suffering and Resurrection

A dinner invitation card featuring a central plate with a floral border. The plate is set on a light green patterned background. To the left of the plate is a silver fork, and to the right is a silver knife. The text "A dinner invitation for you..." is centered on the plate.

A  
dinner  
invitation  
for you...





























welcome  
TO OUR MESS

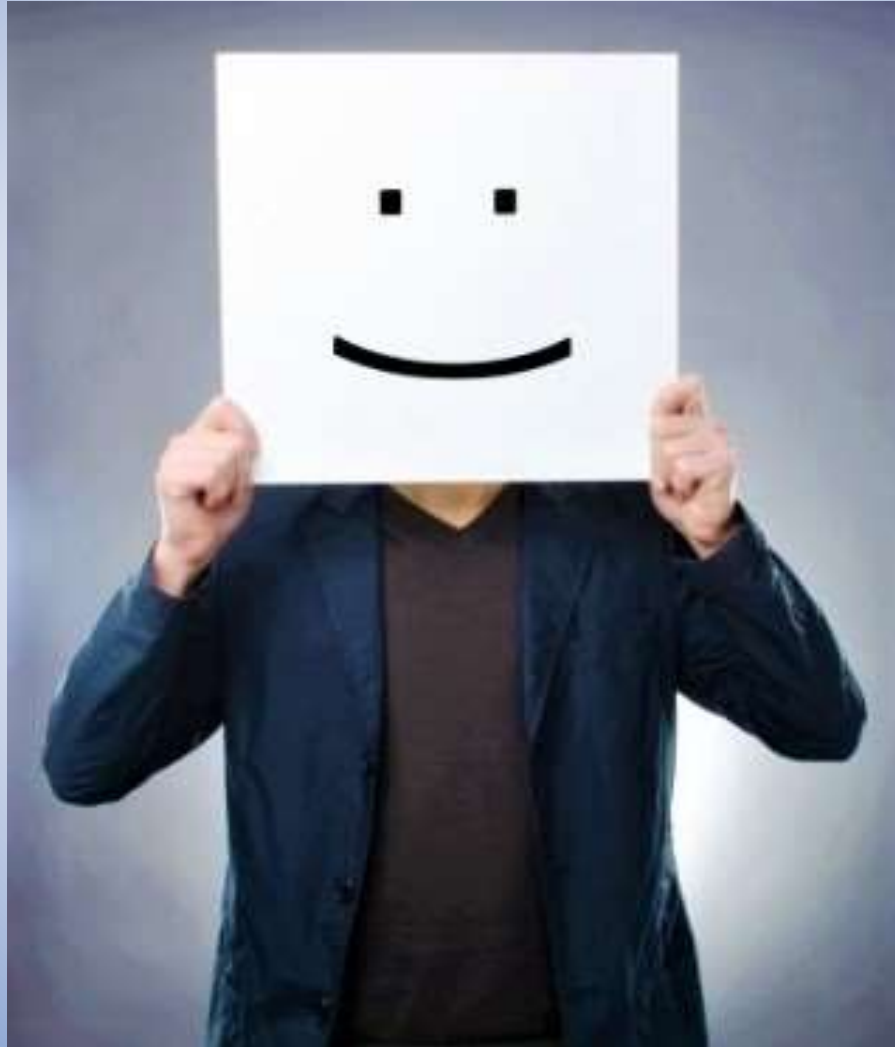
# Welcome to Our Mess







# Welcome to Our Mess





# Welcome to Our Mess



# Welcome to Our Mess

**“Unclean! Unclean!”**



*“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’”  
(Leviticus 13:45-46)*



# Welcome to Our Mess

**“Unclean! Unclean!”**



*“He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.”  
(Leviticus 13:45-46)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

**“Unclean! Unclean!”**



“There is a sense in which leprosy is an archetypal fruit of the original fall of humanity. It leaves its victims in a most pitiable state: ostracized, helpless, hopeless, despairing...”

– Donald Hagner



# Welcome to Our Mess

**“Unclean! Unclean!”**



“The cursed leper, like fallen humanity, has no options until he encounters the messianic king who will make all things new.”

– Donald Hagner

# Welcome to Our Mess





# Welcome to Our Mess

## Touching the Unclean



*“A leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.’ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying...”*

*(Matthew 8:2-3)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## Touching the Unclean



*“‘I will. Be clean.’ And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”*

*(Matthew 8:2-3)*



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## Touching the Unclean

*“[Jesus] went throughout all Galilee...proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.”  
(Matthew 4:23)*

- **Matthew 5-7: Jesus’ proclamation of the Gospel.**
- **Matthew 8-9: Jesus’ *demonstration* of the Gospel.**

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## Touching the Unclean

- He healed the leper (Matthew 8:1–4)
- He healed the centurion's son (8:5–13)
- He healed Peter's mother-in-law (8:14–17)
- He cleansed the Gadarene demoniacs (8:28–34)
- He healed a paralytic (9:1–8)
- He ate with tax collectors and sinners (9:9–13)
- He healed the hemorrhaging woman (9:18–22)
- He raised the ruler's daughter (9:23–26)
- He healed two blind men (9:27–31)
- He healed the mute demoniac (9:32–34)



# Welcome to Our Mess

## Why Didn't Jesus Become Unclean?

- Jesus was inherently righteous, he walked by the Spirit, he was without sin.
- Jesus was the law-giver and was in the process of ratifying a New Covenant.
- Jesus was the source of all purity, and so cleansed everything he touched. He therefore fulfilled the holy objectives of Old Testament Law.

Welcome to Our Mess

Why Didn't Jesus Become Unclean?





# Welcome to Our Mess

## Our Unwashed Hearts

*“Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.” (Matthew 15:17-20)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## Our Unwashed Hearts





# Welcome to Our Mess

## Our Unwashed Hearts

*“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.” (Isaiah 64:6)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“If anyone touches an unclean thing...when he realizes his guilt...and confesses the sin he has committed, he shall bring to the LORD as his compensation...a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat, for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.” (Leviticus 5:2-3, 5)*



# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”  
(Matthew 9:6)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

*All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

*(Isaiah 53:2-6)*



# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:13)*

*“He was despised and rejected by men...”  
(Isaiah 53:3)*

*“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:15-21)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (Titus 3:5-6)*



# Welcome to Our Mess

## Connect the Dots: Cleansing, Atonement, & Healing

*“Jesus...suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. (Hebrews 13:12-13)*



welcome  
TO OUR MESS



# Welcome to Our Mess

## We Must Confess Our Mess!

*“Jesus said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’”  
(Matthew 9:12-13)*

# Welcome to Our Mess

## We Must Confess Our Mess!

The Leper: “*Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.*”” (Matthew 8:2)

The Centurion: “*Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.*”” (Matthew 8:8)

The Woman: “*If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.*”” (Matthew 9:21)



# Welcome to Our Mess

## We Must Confess Our Mess!

The Ruler: “*My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.*”  
(*Matthew 9:23*)

The Blind Men: “*Have mercy on us, Son of David!*” (Matthew 9:27)

# Welcome to Our Mess

## We Must Confess Our Mess!

*“Peter said, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’” (Acts 2:36-39)*



# Welcome to Our Mess

## We Must Confess Our Mess!

“When H. G. Wells summed up the influence of Jesus in history, he said, ‘Is it any wonder that this Galilean is too much for our small hearts?’

And yet the heart of man, though small, is big enough for Christ to live in, if man will only make room for him.”

– Billy Graham

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you better**

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