



Lent Day 34, March 26, 2012 Clean Hands

*Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
Nor sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive blessing from the Lord,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,
Who seek Your face. Selah
Psalm 24:3-6*

For this week of Lent, we are going to focus on spiritual spring cleaning. Past generations put a lot of emphasis on spring cleaning their homes. Some of you may remember helping your moms with these in-depth cleaning chores that you would do about once a year. Thoroughly cleaning homes that had been shut up all winter was a necessity that many of us no longer do. As a little girl, I can remember my parents bustling around getting the house and yard ready for spring and summer. My grandma, who was from Germany, had numerous chores she did to get her house ready. One thing I remember her doing is taking particular care with her feather quilts that she brought to the United States from Germany.

As we prepare for Easter, it's the perfect time for us to spend in spiritual house cleaning.

One way I'd like to encourage you to start your cleaning is by spending some time alone with God--more time than you normally spend in prayer each day if you can. I've been fortunate in being able to participate in a few mini-retreats, where I spend a morning at a retreat center in prayer with God. I know that will be hard for most of us to do this week on such short notice, but I'm hoping you'll be able to set aside some time for a mini-retreat in your own home, or if it's nice outside, maybe at a park.

During this time of Lent, we want to prepare ourselves for Easter. The verses in today's reading show us the importance of having clean hands and a pure heart before the Lord. So, at the start of this week, let's take that desire before the Lord and wait on Him.

Application:

1. Perhaps you can start your prayer time with some worship and praise of the Lord. As we saw [last week](#), praise puts God and us in our proper places and lifts up our spirits.
2. Next, bring your desire before the Lord of wanting to have clean hands and a pure heart. Ask Him to show you what is getting in the way of that. If you've been following

this devotion, you've probably already dealt with some things in your life that you need to change. Today see if God wants to deal with any new things or some old issues at a deeper level.

3. Wait on Him, listening for the Holy Spirit's conviction in your spirit. Perhaps God will lead you to a specific Bible verse; maybe He will put His finger on an area of sin in your life; maybe He will direct you to reconciliation with a person in your life. It could be He wants to encourage you in a difficult task.
4. Write down what you have learned from God on your mini-retreat and spend some time thanking Him for His guidance.

Prayer: Lord,

My desire is that I can be cleansed and ready for Easter this year. Help me to hear your voice clearly. Help me to dust out the cobwebs and dirt in my mind, spirit, and body. In Jesus' name. Amen.