

RE-DRESS

Jesus Christ offers us redress. He “re-dresses” us in His own image when we plunge into His name.

KEY POINTS

Redress (definition): *the act or an instance of setting right a wrong; remedy or cure* (Collins English Dictionary, online).

- ❖ Aaron, Israel’s first high priest, sinned greatly against God and did great damage to God’s people. And he lied about it (see Exodus 32).
- ❖ Yet, in Exodus 28 and 29 God had given Moses specific instructions regarding Aaron and his sons.
- ❖ They were entirely imperfect, but God said, “Wash them, dress them and anoint them to serve. Label them holy—set apart for service—unto the Lord.”
- ❖ Then in Leviticus 10, soon after they were washed, dressed and anointed, two of those priests disobeyed God and died.
- ❖ Malachi 3:3 tells us something about what each of us can expect to happen throughout our lives: “He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.”
- ❖ In Zechariah 3, a celestial drama plays out in a courtroom-like setting. Joshua (Yeshua), the high priest, “stood before God in filthy garments” (v. 3), hearing all the record of his wrongs and his sins being cast against him by his accuser. “Then [the Lord] answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him.’ And to him He said, ‘See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes’” (Zechariah 3:4).
- ❖ Similarly, in the face of true accusations against us brought up in “court” by the enemy of our souls, Jesus is our advocate.
- ❖ John 8 describes a scene that took place on the grounds of Jerusalem’s Temple. A woman taken in the act of adultery was brought before Jesus to see what He would say. This time He didn’t speak, He wrote in the dirt. He did not condemn her, but set her free to “go and sin no more.”
- ❖ Many years prior to this, God gave Moses this description of Himself:

“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty...” (Exodus 34:6).

KEY SCRIPTURES: Exodus 28:1-29:9; 32:1-6, 21-28; Leviticus 8:6-13; Zechariah 3:1-5; John 8:1-11; Luke 8:26-36

- ❖ In Luke 8 we see a man in torment, damaging himself and everything around him, terrorizing everyone. But no number of demons could stop him (or us) from falling at Jesus’ feet.
- ❖ He came naked, bruised, angry and tormented. He left calm, clothed and in his right mind. Clean, content and thankful; claimed as a child of God.
- ❖ The spiritual forces you might feel from time to time don’t belong around you, they don’t belong in you. Let’s learn from the herd of pigs in the Luke 8 story.
- ❖ Did they “oink” to one another, “Here is water; what hinders us from being baptized?” Probably not.
- ❖ But they all plunged into the water.
- ❖ In baptism we shed our old identity, our old life. We rise in “new clothes”, covered in Christ’s name, His identity.
- ❖ When you look at yourself in the light of a Holy God, maybe what is glaringly obvious are your filthy garments.
- ❖ Sometimes you might feel, ‘Why even try? Just live in the filthy garments and be done.’ You could do that, if that’s who you want to be.
- ❖ But if you want to change outside and inside, change what’s happening in your life, change for eternity, God offers you...Re-Dress.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read over the key scriptures, as well as Revelation 7:9-17, 12:10-11. How has God provided redress for the true things “the accuser” brings up “day and night”?
2. What do these and other scriptures (share them) tell us about God’s love, grace and mercy? Do we have any part at all in becoming/remaining clean?
3. Share something you are glad we can be washed from, and a “new garment” you are grateful to be “re-dressed” in.

Prayer Time

Lord, thank You for allowing me to fall at Your feet and receive deliverance in Jesus’ name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



(Reminds me/Confirms)



(New idea)



(Think about)



(Do this)



(Speaks to my heart)



(Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

L.G. Ice-Breaker: How do you feel about “clean freaks”? What about “clutterbugs”? Which one do you tend to be?