

A Golden Utensil

"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."

The Apostle Paul | 2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT)

Ahh... the marvels of modern age dishwashers. Each piece of silverware has its own slot to keep it separate and ensure it gets properly cleaned. Not so in the old days. It was common for spoons to nestle together as if conspiring to keep themselves dirty. I remember prying them apart while shaking my head and muttering, "Who'd want to eat with these?"

If utensils could speak, I suspect they'd describe the washing experience like this: "Powerful forces blasted us from all sides;

scorching hot water! Caustic detergent covered us... and it was dark, dark, dark... as pitch... we thought we were going to die!"

We'd respond, "Well, that's what it takes to clean you up for good use.

Of course we'd never let you die!"

Who hasn't felt like a dirty utensil in the dishwasher at some point in their life? Painful, dark as pitch... life's trials can make us feel like we're dying! Our Master responds, "Well, that's what it takes to clean you up for good use." Of course I'd never let you die!"

Yet, as those clinging spoons proved, the full benefit of the wash cycle can be missed. Because they clung to other dirty utensils, they remained dirty, unfit for use. The same is true for us and Paul makes it clear that we have a role in our purification – to separate ourselves.

Reflect: What dirty utensils am I clinging to?

Having been born and raised in a world under the enemy's rule, our understanding of what is clean and dirty is muddied. Like the proverbial frog in the pot of water, we are easily deceived. How many Netflix series have you watched where Season 1 was innocent, clean... all good. But as Season 2 progresses, now that you're caught up in the plot, the language changes and shady characters and perverse scenes enter. A step back reveals its creator's "agenda." Have you the strength to step away?

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." The Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I've heard that banks train employees to spot counterfeit bills by instilling in them clearly what the real ones look like. Deep clarity of the truth makes what's fake stand out. Paul instructs us likewise, declaring scripture as the truth. Will you engage it intently and obediently allow God to pry you apart from what is dirty?

Consider: Spend more time in scripture to spot the dirty utensils I'm clinging to.

They say that over time, people and their dogs start to look alike.

Perhaps it begins with the choice of the dog, but regardless, it seems true! Could it be the same with people? That we become like those we hang with?

"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble." (Proverbs 13:20)

Scripture says yes! Parents certainly know this; who'd want their child hanging with the wrong crowd? What good will that child's life yield?

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or

stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." (Psalm 1:1-3)

Who are you hanging with? Have you the courage to step away from bad influencers, both in person and on social media, perhaps camouflaged as news?

Imagine: I'm stepping away so I can be a golden utensil in God's hand.

It'd be cool if we were automatically cleaned, no effort on our part. We could wake each day clean. But we live in a dirty world, full of temptation and deceit. And to be honest, we were all born as cheap utensils, suitable only for everyday use; unsuitable for the good work of God's Mission for our lives. Wanting golden utensils throughout his Kingdom, he challenges us to step away.

"In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use." The Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 2:21)

You are responsible for what utensils you cling to. Fear the Lord! Take your Mission seriously and embrace the difficult steps required to purify your life. Separate yourself and become useful in his hand...

A Golden Utensil!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What impure things have I allowed to creep into my life?
- How will I step-up my regular intake of scripture, the truth?
- Who (people, web influencers, media) have I been hanging with? Which do I need to walk away from?

Spirit Talk

Cleanse Myself

"Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God."

The Apostle Paul | 2 Corinthians 7:1









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