



Titus #9

Titus 3:5b-6

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March 15, 2026

Let's jump back into Titus! We are in the middle of Lent: be sure you get a copy of the Lenten devotional that (mostly older) people at the Village contributed to. This is the 4th of 6 Sundays of Lent: the remembering and rejoicing over the new life in Jesus. Titus 3 gives us a good frame to walk into this, focusing on Jesus's Way vs. the Cretan's way in caring for each other. Paul reminds us that we were once foolish and deceived, hating one another. We are to celebrate when we live in Jesus's Way...but for the Gospel, we would all be Cretans. Let's talk more about what the Gospel does in our lives to lead us into Jesus's Way.

Titus 3:5b-6

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior...

Here is today's passage.

He saved us...

We have to begin at HE SAVED US. This is where we started last week as well.

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy

He saved us,

through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...

While we mostly preach out of the NIV translation, the NKJ says it a little differently. It gives us a FOCAL POINT: Jesus entered into our lives and bright us wholeness and healing. Picture sitting at the bottom of a rainy, muddy VALLEY that you cannot get out of. It's messy: Jesus comes to the edge and sees you and comes into the messy Valley to save us. He doesn't just ask us to follow him but engages us in the middle of our mess to offer us healing and wholeness.

He saved us...

This is what I want to focus on today.



This is me at a camp that had an outside shower where we had to be careful so the local wild mongooses (mongeese?) would not take our soap.

Washing

Ephesians 5:25-27 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the **washing** with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Picture when you are really dirty and sweating and you take a shower: that clean feeling you get afterwards. I actually took 2-3 showers/day at the ranch in Mexico where we went because we would get so dirty, hot, and sweaty.

There is a cleanliness to this also mentioned in a different way in **Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her**

holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish. These verses call us to lay down our demands because Christ walked into this world and laid down his life into suffering and betrayal in order to WASH us, the church, so we can walk in at the end whole and blameless. Jesus washes us, not just a little bit, but a complete cleansing without stain, wrinkle, or blemish: Jesus does this for us!

Rebirth

Matthew 19:27-30 – Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the **renewal** of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus also gives us rebirth as illustrated in Matt 19. There will be a REBIRTH of all things, a moment to be reborn. Heaven floods early and makes new all creation. Our moment is the washing where Jesus marks us as being born again.

Rebirth

John 3:3-6 – Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

The Spirit marks us as one who is washed and will be presented holy and blameless, washed clean.

Renewal

Romans 12:1-2 – Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

renewed in Jesus.

Renewal is also used in Rom 12:1,2. A while ago, I was attending a youth night at another church and we invited a speaker who talked about this verse. He developed a long list of what we shouldn’t do but never got to the rest of the verse about being transformed by the renewing of our mind. It’s not about avoiding certain behaviors, it’s about a walk with Jesus that renews our minds daily. This is a process of renewal as Jesus enters into the mess, beginning in us a lifetime of being

The Undragoning of Eustace

What is it like for you in the valley? Are you hiding or crying out? What is it like for you to be seen in the mess?

With Jesus we are washed clean. What has been different? What has been slow to be “renewed”?

The Voyage of the Dawntrader by CS Lewis: The two children return to Narnia with their cousin Eustace who is rude and mean and angry to everyone and doesn’t want to be there. He is constantly looking for ways to escape and ends up in a forest where he sits on a dragon hoard and becomes a dragon: *What is inside him is now displayed on the outside* and he is isolated from everyone. Over time, Eustace realizes their kindness throughout the whole voyage and becomes helpful even though he realizes he cannot

leave because he is a dragon. **But Aslan comes** and tells him to **bathe** in a mountain pool. The begins a series of tearing off layers of skin. Aslan has to eventually rip the layers himself: it’s terrible and painful but when it’s done, he is Eustace again and can return with his family on the voyage. This is what Jesus does with us: he tears at the evil and broken parts and sometimes it’s painful but, in Him, we are reborn. **Eustace is not magically a perfect person but he is BETTER and everything is different and being renewed because of the washing.**

Consider these questions:

What is it like for you in the battle? Is there hiding, shame, and crying out? What is it like to be seen in the mess?

Jesus washes us clean: if you have been with Jesus, what is different and what is slow to be renewed in your life?

Poured Out Generously

Blood and wine and Spirit

Rich and abundant

The Holy Spirit is poured out as a deluge.

Anointing of oil

But this isn’t the end of the passage! He **POURED OUT GENEROUSLY** the Holy Spirit.

“Pour out” is used in Revelation on the seven bowls. It also referring to blood, wine, and spirit. In Acts, the pouring out of innocent people’s blood is also mentioned.

The Spirit is the blood of Jesus poured out on us: it's rich and abundant: Not just a little bit. It's **generous**. We are immersed in the Holy Spirit.

Consider the anointing of oil compared to Aaron beard in Psalm 133: this anointing marks the people of God when they live together in unity.

Poured Out Generously

1 Samuel 16:12-13 – So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the **Spirit of the Lord** came powerfully upon David.

Another passage about anointing is in I Samuel 16 when Samuel anoints David as king. The Spirit comes on David with the anointing of oil.

Poured Out Generously

Psalm 23:5 -

You anoint my head with oil! When you pray Psalm 23, you acknowledge the anointing of God.

Poured Out Generously

Psalm 23:5 - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Although we anoint people here with oil, we don't pour oil on them. Even so, you have a mark as one who is washed who will be presented before God without stain or blemish.

Poured Out Generously

Matthew 3:13-17 – Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

When Jesus was baptized by John...We also baptized here and will do this on Easter in a couple of weeks. This is also a sign of the new life in the Holy Spirit. It's a beautiful thing: if you have not been baptized not because it saves you but because it is a sign of what has happened to you: a clean washing of renewal in the Holy Spirit.

The story of how Jesus steps into our lives. Next week, we will focus on our identity as heirs. In the meantime, know that Jesus brings a washing and renewal in the midst of your mess. We look forward to the wedding feast of the lamb.