

Ordinary 22nd B

When I was a boy my mother always told me to go wash my hands before supper. You?
You couldn't eat with dirty hands – you'd get your food dirty, then eat THAT!

People today are still concerned about having clean hands – understandable in a Pandemic
People carry hand sanitizer – little bottles like this, bigger ones at home, handiwhipe clothes
Even here at Church – before consecration priest washes his hands, AND at communion
Keeping hands clean is good, right?

Gospel tells us the Pharisees tell JC “We notice your disciples eat without washing their hands”
Just like my mother – eat with unclean hands, your food is unclean, then so are you!

Jesus says “Its not what goes into your body that makes you unclean, its all the bad words that come out of you. Out of your hearts come evil thoughts, greed, cheating & envy. THIS is what makes you unclean

Pharisees were more worried about having clean hands than a clean heart. ARE WE ANY DIFFERENT?
I have a 7 yr old grandson – handsome, clean, good looking
Leo from camp “I learned ALL the curse words today at camp” 7 yrs old.
Leo still has to learn the importance of cleaning the INSIDE
Its not what we can see outside, its what we ARE inside that matters

We work hard to have clean hands, but do we guard our hearts against evil thoughts
What kind of books do we read? TV Shows, Movies, our language
What do we say about people we don't like?
Clean hands or clean hearts – whats more important?

Moses tells the people to obey the commandments WHY?
“thus you shall give evidence of your wisdom to the nations”
He's saying OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS so that other nations will see YOU are truly wise.
– So, a sign of OUR having the Wisdom of God is our following the commandments.
– AND other nations will testify to OUR wisdom (other people will see OUR wisdom in this)
& God's fidelity

God's way of life has been laid out for us WE DO GOOD or WE DO BAD
Now what? - It's JAMES that answers that question:

JAMES says “All good things come from above – so be DOERS of the Word, not hearers only