

# ASTONISHED

Seeing & Hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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## Small Group Questions — The Week of February 21, 2021

**Sermon Overview:** “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” This well-known statement can be traced back to the preaching of John Wesley, but the sentiment goes all the way back to the oldest chapters of the Bible. In the Old Testament, Jewish law gave specific instructions on how God’s people were to purify themselves by regularly washing their hands and feet and avoiding certain foods that were deemed “unclean.” This is why cleanliness is not only associated with godliness, but sin is often associated with being dirty. Have you ever felt dirty because of your sin and shame? Just like the Pharisees, we work so hard to clean ourselves up, but there is nothing we can do to remove the stains of sin. Join us this Sunday as we continue our sermon series through the Gospel of Mark and find out why Jesus is the only one who can make us clean.

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 7:1-23

1. Have you ever felt dirty after you did something wrong? What did you do to try to make yourself feel clean?
2. What is a hypocrite? What does hypocrisy look like in your own life?
3. The book of Isaiah describes a people who honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him (Isaiah 29:13). Has this ever been true of you? In what ways?
4. What is the difference between tradition and traditionalism? What makes traditionalism so damaging to the Christian life?
5. What did Jesus mean when He said that “the things that come out of a person are what defile him?” (Mark 7:15)
6. What has Jesus done to make us clean? Why is this such good news?