



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

MAKE YOURSELVES CLEAN

Isaiah 1:10-20

Loving God who wants our hearts to be clean

In this passage we can see that religious leaders were making the necessary traditional sacrifices and offerings at holy celebrations; however, they were unfaithful to God in their hearts. Sacrifices were to be an outward sign of their faith in God. But their sacrifices became shallow because of their impure hearts. This is how most of us are. It's not what we give, it's how you give that matters. In the book of Acts we can see that Worship should be a lifestyle, not a routine. It's very easy to go to church and sing the songs on the screen and lift your hands; but if you can walk out and not be transformed or see the world around you transformed, then that wasn't worship. God wants us to love him, trust him and turn away from our sin. Only after that, he will be pleased with our offerings. Once Mother Theresa said, "A clean heart is a free heart. A free heart can love Christ with an undivided love in simplicity, convinced that nothing and nobody will separate it from his love".

Forgiving God who takes away the stains of sin

In this passage, God is comparing sin to crimson, a deep red permanent dye and its stain was virtually impossible to remove from clothing. The stain of sin seems equally permanent, but God can remove sin's stain from our lives as he promised to do for the Israelites. We do not have to go through life permanently soiled. God's word assures us that if we are willing and obedient; Christ will forgive and remove our most indelible stains. In 1 John 1:9 we can see that, if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus did not die for us while we were his friends, but while we were his enemies, opposing him by our sinfulness. Yet, in spite of all of this, God demonstrated his love for us by dying on the cross. Whenever you are tempted to doubt God's love for you, take a long look at the cross on which Jesus died. Then realize that, for all practical purposes, it was not nails that held him to the cross, but **Love**.

Prayer: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:10-12). In Jesus Name, we pray.... Amen

Mathew Jojin Thomas

*"Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,"
Isaiah 1: 16*