

**Quest of the Holy...**  
**Pastor Jeremy**  
**Lifeline September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

Tonight we talk about something that has everything to do with \_\_\_\_\_ and very little but somewhat to do with \_\_\_\_\_.

What comes to mind when you see the following images:

Picture 1=

Picture 2=

I think both of these pictures help us in understand the common reaction to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in general.

Things we can learn from Psalm 24

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ all things on this earth. Whether inanimate or animate.
2. The only people that may stand in His holy place have these characteristics:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

These three characteristics will come out of the \_\_\_\_\_ for God just like Jacob did.

See You At the Pole is all about seeking God and inviting others into the **QUEST** of finding Christ and the blessings of God.

Tonight we talk about something that has everything to do with **soap** and very little but

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somewhat to do with **Monty Python and the Holy Grail**.

What comes to mind when you see the following images:

Picture 1=

Picture 2=

I think both of these pictures help us in understand the common reaction to **See You At the Pole** and **prayer** in general.

Things we can learn from Psalm 24

1. God **created** and **sustains** all things on this earth. Whether inanimate or animate.
  
2. The only people that may stand in His holy place have these characteristics:
  1. **Have Clean Hands**
  2. **Has a pure heart**
  3. **Does not worship idols/things**

These three characteristics will come out of the **search** for God just like Jacob did.

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**Game**

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Okay I need everyone to get into 6 different teams. The only thing is you must have at least one representative (if possible) of each different grade (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). Once you get in your groups you will need to choose one person who will be your volunteer and person who you feel can win this activity for you. The winners will get a prize to eat during the rest of Lifeline in front of every other team.

Your volunteer will be going on a quest to find 5 different jolly ranchers within this pile of whip cream. The team who's volunteer gets all five of them out and onto this plate or napkin without using their hands will win their team the remainder bag of jolly ranchers and a bag of gummy bears.

**Announcements**

Sunday morning a special service that will highlight the children's and youth ministries here at church. I need a couple more people to be greeters and/or usher's. Please see Pastor Jeremy afterwards to sign up. And if you are not doing anything please come and sit either with your parents or with Pastor Jeremy so the church can see who you are.

Sunday evening the groups from New Mexico and Green Lake will be reporting in the evening service so it would be nice for those who did not attend either trip to come and show your support as we hear all that went on these trips

Next Tuesday at 5:30pm we will be gathering here at the church to head over to St Clair Ave Church for a See You At The Pole Rally from 6pm-8pm. We should be back at the church by 8:30pm for you to be picked up.

Next Wednesday 30 minutes before your school starts SYATP around your flag pole. Please let Pastor Jeremy know what time that will be for your school, write it down or email him. He will try to make it to as many schools as possible to at least take pictures and pray with you from a distance.

Sunday September 19 Dr Bill Clemmer will be speaking in the evening during church. He is one of our missionaries that we support. We will be upstairs listening to him and what he has to challenge us with.

**Worship-Mike Braun**

All Who Are Thirsty

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reached and can be known. If this was not true then there is no need to go any farther in life. We do not then need to be concerned about how this world was created and what this “god” is all about if He is not able to be sought after and approached. But since David is saying that God can be approached our lives should be lived in a way that realizes our dependent on Him and the thankfulness for what He has created for us.

The answer to the question is found in the next verse

2. The only people that may stand in His holy place have these characteristics:
  1. **Have Clean Hands**
  2. **Has a pure heart**
  3. **Does not worship idols/things**

Now let me expand on the different aspects just a minute. Did you know that in the court system there is something known as the “clean hands doctrine.” You may have seen this doctrine at work if you have ever watched *Judge Judy*, *Texas Justice*, or any other of the tv court shows. But here is what the doctrine says according to Law.com

“A rule of law that a person coming to court with a lawsuit or petition for a court order must be free from unfair conduct (have “clean hands” or not have done anything wrong) in regard to the subject matter of his/her claim. His/her activities not involved in the legal action can be abominable because they are considered irrelevant. Example: A former partner sues on a claim that he was owed money on a consulting contract with the partnership when he left, but the defense states that the plaintiff (party suing) has tried to get customers from the partnership by spreading untrue stories about the remaining partner’s business practices.”

I found that to be very interesting and relevant to what David is trying to teach us in this passage. You see the “clean hands” part of the verse is talking about our outward actions and appearances. We need to be clean and innocent before God when we come to him. Ultimately that only happens when we have accepted Christ and ask for the forgiveness for the sins we have committed. IN the O.T. this was symbolized by washing your hands before you reached the temple. There were basins where this could take place. When you “cleaned your hands’ you are telling everyone that your outward actions are good and innocent from any wrong doing. Of course this is part of where the soap comes into play from before.

David however go beyond our outward actions and goes to the heart and motives we have through saying we need a “pure heart” as well. This probably the most critical part of things. If you look at Matthew 5-7 and Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount you see how important this aspect of things is to the well being of a person. In fact the O.T. taught this as well when God said in 1

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Days of Elijah  
Amazing Grace (to the tune of Peaceful Easy Feeling)

**Lesson-Pastor Jeremy**

Tonight before we start our “official” lesson I want to show you a clip about SYATP. As you know we will be going to the rally next week and then you will be participating hopefully next Wednesday morning at your flag poles this international event that takes place this time each year.

(Watch video segment 4 about 2 minutes in length)

This video serves as a beginning piece to what we are discussing tonight and the verses we will look at are the actual theme verses for SYATP this year. As we get in I couldn’t help as I was preparing for this lesson to think of one of my many favorite movies, *Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail*. While I was searching the internet and looking for many things that I ended up not finding for the most part tonight I came across this image and it hit me that in fact it was a great visual of what we are discussing as well. Tell me what you think. (Show next slide).

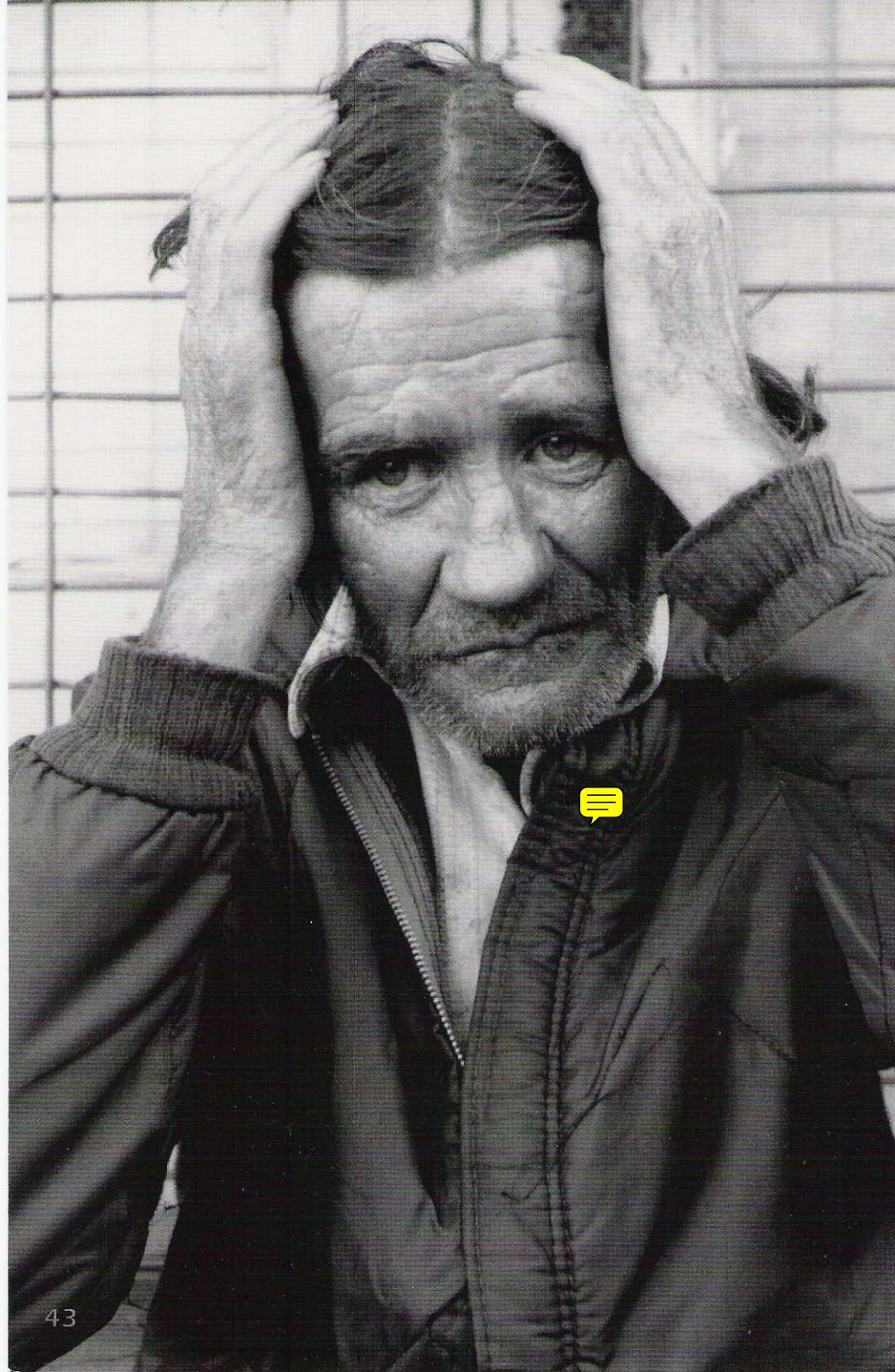
So if you put those two images together you may think that tonight we are talking about something that has everything to do with **soap** and very little but somewhat to do with **Monty Python and the Holy Grail**. Which in fact is totally true and amazing. The Monty Python part is all about going on a quest and journey, just like our volunteers earlier went on a journey to search for the holy jolly ranchers through the maze of cool whip. We are going to learn tonight that if we embark on a certain kind of quest that in actuality we will not only reach our goal but reap some benefits from the process in the meantime. So let’s start our journey this maze I call *Quest for the Holy...*

Okay I need you guys back into groups of 3-4. What I want you to do and you see there is some space in your handout to write down your thoughts, but I want to know what you think of when you see this picture (show next slide). Write down any thought that comes to your mind with this image. Discuss in your groups why you think that and be ready to share with the rest of the group. You have 2 minutes to complete this.

Okay now let’s share some of your responses. Okay once again I am going to show you another image and you are to embark on the same journey/quest that you just did with the first image. Here we go. (Show next slide) Okay now let’s share some of your thoughts.

I believe that these images help us in understand the common reaction to **See You At the Pole**

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and **prayer** in general. You see the first image I think shows how sometimes we act, like “Ah man do I have to pray, go to SYATP. Your Kidding me right!” “That sounds painful” especially when maybe you tell your friend how early you have to be at school and the fact that everyone and anyone will see you in front of the flag pole. A lot of times when I talk to you guys and teens in general and I mention the topic of prayer, you give me this look of pain and agony, like it is something that is worst than going to the dentist or something. But in fact prayer is just the opposite and that is what SYATP and tonight is all about showing you and hoping to get you to transform the way you think about it.

The second image is a good positive way of looking at prayer; it is a journey/path to God. Prayer is one of the ways that we are able to get away from life sometimes and just talk with God like we would anyone else. It leads us, or at least has to me, down a path that is peaceful, serene, calm, and breathtaking all at the same time. Kinda like the way this picture shows forest and a little bit of fog in the morning light. So let’s get going on our journey as we look at Psalm 24 and what we can learn from the beginning verse. Pass out the Bibles and turn with me to Psalm 24, can I get someone to read it.

(Read verses 1-6 in NIV)

Great as you can see on the screen here is what she/he just read for us. But now follow along with me on the screen as I read to you the same verses from the message. I really like the way Peterson put the last part of the verses and you should be able to know where I got the title and images from.

(Read from Message)

You see there are a couple of things that we can learn from Psalm 24, in fact there are two main points.

1. God **created** and **sustains** all things on this earth. Whether inanimate or animate. This is the very first thing that we can learn here and probably the most important. We need to realize tonight just like David did when writing this Psalm that God created all things and that without God nothing can keep on going on in life. Tonight you need to realize that God is concerned about you and that He wants what is best with you. This psalm points to our need for a relationship with our God. This is fleshed out further in the next couple verses as we see a couple more things about God.

The next verse sets up the them for SYATP and let’s us know a little bit about who our God is. First off we need to know that David is telling us through these questions that God can be

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Samuel this “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the Heart.” You see David is in essence saying that the dirt of the heart is more crucial to take care of than the ‘dirt’ of the hands. Jesus would have echoed this statement in his Sermon on the Mount when he talks about if we have thought about killing our brother than we have done that act as well and therefore have sinned.

If we are doing the first two things mentioned in the verse than normally we won’t have a problem with the bowing down to Idols. There are many idols that you may be serving today not just another God. You could name 10-15 in just seconds if I let you but I won’t for the sake of time. But the question is, can you name something that is causing your to not pay attention to God? If so, then you are worshiping an idol, something other than God.

These three characteristics will come out of the **search** for God just like Jacob did. You see when you want to have clean hands, a pure heart, and worship God alone you begin this quest of faith that we have been talking about. You begin the journey to the throne of God. I want to show you another image and share with you my thoughts when I first saw the image last night in my office.

(Show next slide)

This image I believe shows what effect prayer may end up making us look like, a person in the midst of war. When we pray we no longer are engage in an act in the physical realm but the spiritual. We are like a statue in the midst of war and sometimes people try to take our “heads off” On Wednesday I want you to know that when you gather around your flag pole that you are standing up for what you believe and letting everyone at school know that you are a Christian. That is a great stand but I do know that our Enemy will try everything to thwart you from doing this and may put some public ridicule in front of you. Be ready to stand, that is why you will have others there with you, that is why I am here, and the other leaders in this room. We want to be your support and we have your back when you are attacked and not wanting to stand.

I am going to play a song entitled “Give us Clean Hands” and I want you to listen to the words and use it as your prayer. Mike and Alex are going to come up and play with the song and maybe next week will sing it together. As that is playing I will be passing out a white soap heart. This is to help you be reminded about having “clean hands” or outward appearances but then also “a pure heart” the inward appearances and motives when you go about your daily life. May whenever you see this or soap be reminded of Psalm 24 and how only when we have clean hands and a pure heart may we enter the throne of God through prayer.

(Play song, it is about 4 minutes 30 seconds long in length)

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