

## Holy Transformed Week Four “White Washed Tombs” Believers Statesboro 10-28-18

This year at Believers Church our theme has been “Transformation”.

God is Holy, and being transformed into His image is a transformation into His Holiness.

In Matthew 23, Jesus is going through a set of “woe’s” or “warnings” to those who were just playing the game of holiness, but not truly being transformed. He addresses a group of Pharisees and describes them as nothing more than “white washed tombs”.

### White Washed Tombs

*Matthew 23:27-28 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”*

We need to heed this warning as well, because we don’t want to be looking good on the outside, but be dead and decaying on the inside; being righteous and holy looking on the outside but dirty and wicked on the inside. Jesus wants to wash us completely: inside and out.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all like to try to keep our interior sins secret and make sure that we are looking clean on the outside, so that we will always appear to holy.

Some of us just want to play Hokey Pokey.

### Hokey Pokey People

Do you remember this? *“You put your right foot in, put your right foot out, put your right foot in and shake it all about. You do the hokey-pokey, and you turn yourself around. That’s what it’s all about.”*

You know, when it comes to holy living; when it comes to transforming our lives, isn’t it true that a lot of us just kind of do the hokey-pokey without really engaging in deep, internal, and everlasting transformation?

Isn’t it so true? We only change the exterior as opposed to the interior. Rather than completely surrendering our lives to Jesus and letting him have full access, we hold areas of our lives back trying to hide and cover our sins, but hiding and concealing your sins won’t work.

**Next Life Transformation Step: I will honestly look at my life and see, when it comes to holiness, am I dancing the Hokey Pokey or am I all in.**

### What We Cover, God Uncovers. What We Uncover, God Covers.

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

### What We Cover, God Uncovers

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper,*

### Cover Up Game Rules

#### 1. Blame Others

*“I’m the way I am because of my family of origin.” / “I’m the way I am because my mother was mean spirited; my father was domineering.” / My friends / My spouse... blame, blame, blame.*  
Generation Excusers and Blaming Boomers.

#### 2. Get as Many Sinful Sympathizers as You Can

We invite others under the blanket with us. Sinful sympathizers—people covering up stuff in their lives, and they help us be sinful sympathizers.

- I would sleep around on my spouse too, if she acted like that or if he did that.
- You have to smoke weed at least three or four times a week. That’s just what you do.
- You’ve got to frequent those places.
- Yeah, it’s good to gossip and rip people apart. If it’s true, spread it! Sinful sympathizers.

#### 3. Lie

When we’re covering, we can’t walk in the light. We don’t know which way to go. We begin to lie. We lie to God. Then, we lie to others.

*“Oh, yeah, I’ve got it together.”* Our lives are a lie.

### God Will Uncover

- When you’re living covered up, how can you see and hear God?

- How can you follow God's plan for your life?

**So, what we cover, ultimately God, because He loves us, will uncover.**

- God will bring everything to light and expose us.
- If we cover up, God will uncover it one day. So, don't mess around with that.

### What We Uncover, God Covers.

#### How Do We Uncover?

##### 1. **Confess Your Sins** *Proverbs 28:13 ... but whoever confesses...*

What does the word confess mean? (To admit, agree with, tell the truth.)

- When I'm confessing my sin, my shortcomings, I am just telling the truth before God.
- When I confess my sins to God, God doesn't say, "I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_." No, you're not going to surprise God. He knows.

When we uncover our sins, open and expose our tomb, when we confess our sins, we are just agreeing with God about our condition.

##### 2. **Renounce Your Sins** *But whoever confesses and renounces...*

Renounces, means leave behind. That's repentance.

- We confess. We agree with God. We don't stop there.
- We make an about face. We turn and walk the other way. We renounce. We repent.
- We do a 180, which is repentance, and we go the opposite direction by God's power.

### God Covers Us with Mercy

If we confess and repent, if we confess and renounce, check out what happens:

*Proverbs 28:13, "...but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*

That's what happens when we uncover our sins. Confession and repentance trigger the mercy of God.

So often, we will sin specifically and confess generally.

When we're playing the cover up game, what do we do?

- We blame.
- We bunch up with sinful sympathizers.
- We lie to God. We lie to others. We lie to ourselves.

Yet, when we confess and repent and we uncover, what happens?

- **We Don't Blame Anymore.** When we point the finger, we realize that 1, 2, 3 are pointing back at us. We are taking ownership. We blew it. We messed up. We have fallen short.
- **We Won't Be with Sinful Sympathizers but Encouraging Empathizers.** You will find yourself being drawn to people who challenge you, who hold you accountable, who pray for you, and who share with you.
- **We Won't Lie.** As we uncover, **we don't have to lie**, we live a life of truth.
  - Jesus said, in John 8:32, "*You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*"
  - You're being honest with God. You're being honest with others. You're agreeing with them. You're telling the truth about your whole deal.

**Church is a place where we have to take our masks off.**

- Church is a place for imperfect people.
- The devil will say, "Don't share your junk with others. Don't share what you're going through with these encouraging empathizers because they're going to laugh at you; they're going to trash you, and they're going to say, 'I can't believe you're dealing with that.'" (The devil is a liar.)

**Next Life Transformation Step: Today, I will take responsibility for my actions, come clean and uncover, confess and renounce my sins.**

### King David's White Washed Tomb

A man after God's own heart... David committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed and for a year he played the cover up game.

*Psalms 32:3-5 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*

*<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. (We can understand that, can't we?) <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

David, an adulterer and murderer, uncovered and God covered him with His grace and mercy and a clear conscious.

When he was living as a white washed tomb, clean looking on the outside and dirty on the inside, he was wasting away.

### **Nathanized (2 Samuel 12)**

Why did King David confess after a year of playing the cover up game? David got Nathanized. Nathan confronted him in love and said, "King, you're in sin."

- Nathan empathized with him and spoke the truth in love. Not sympathize.
- David could have killed Nathan on the spot.
- David, though, submitted. He received the truth, he confessed, he repented, and he began to do what God wanted him to do.
- Every time you come to church, every time I come to church, we're all Nathanized, right?
- When we read Scripture, we're Nathanized.

### **Repentance Transformation**

The Apostle Paul, a man who understood and experienced supernatural transformation said:

*Romans 12:2 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.*

That word transform in Greek is the word metamorphosis.

- Cooperate with the miracle of metamorphosis. Don't try to fly and be a butterfly by yourself.
- Be transformed by the renewing of your what? Of your mind. It begins in the mind.

So, if people are covering up, they're not going to be thinking right. They're whack a doodle doo. A lot of people have stinking thinking.

Romans 12:2 tells me if I uncover and allow God to cover me, my mind can be transformed. I will start thinking right.

- When I think right and feed on the Word, then I will start acting right.
- When I start acting right, I will start living and behaving right- Holy living!

### **What We Cover, God Uncovers. What We Uncover, God Covers.**

Scripture says we all have played the cover up game.

But "**Our sins will find us out.**" When the reveal happens, so often it's not a pretty thing.

*1 John 1:6-10 "If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives."*

Let's not live our lives as white washed tombs. Let's uncover and find mercy and grace.

### **Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. In your own words, explain what Jesus meant by "White Washed Tombs". (Matthew 23:27-28)
2. What did Pastor Scott mean when he said some people play the Hokey Pokey with holiness?
3. Do you tend to blame others for your sins, or take the responsibility for yourself?
4. What is a sinful sympathizer? How can they hurt you? What would you rather have in your life?
5. What happens when you lie about your sins? Does one lie tend to lead to another?
6. Uncovering your sins requires that you \_\_\_\_\_ your sins and \_\_\_\_\_ your sins.
7. What is the result of uncovering your sinfulness and invoking 1 John 1:9?