

There is a call from Jesus that is so simple, yet so profound. It’s an invitation to a life that is far better than the life most people live, AND IT’S ONLY TWO WORDS.

IN RESPONSE TO THESE TWO WORDS:

- Wealthy people have given up everything. People living a mundane life have discovered purpose.
- Those bound in addictions have been set free. The anxious, downcast, and depressed have discovered joy. Those who were dying have discovered hope.

These two words are this. It’s Jesus’ two-word invitation to “**Follow Me**”.

If you say yes to those two words, it will change everything. It’s a life of forgiveness.

Followers Walk Clean

When I think about :

- The no condemnation, forgiveness, and restoration of Peter that we talked about last week.
- The go and sin no more moment Jesus had with the woman caught in adultery.
- The prodigal son returning home to his Father welcoming him with open arms.
- When I think about the way Jesus forgave me of all my sins.
- And when think about how refreshing and good it feels to be clean before Jesus....

I want and I desire to walk clean as I follow him.

Peter declares that our following Jesus begins with repentance which brings a refreshing.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

The refreshing is wonderful, but you may have noticed that you and I don’t live a sin free life even after our salvation. We make mistakes and sometimes willfully do the wrong things. Therefore, John tells us to confess our sins and stay clean before the Lord. **1 John 1:8-10 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

As followers of Christ, we must repent, receive forgiveness, and walk clean as we follow Jesus.

But Sometimes We Are 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.”*

When it comes to following Jesus, this is what a lot of us do. You put one foot in and one foot out. We just kind of do the hokey pokey without really engaging in deep and allowing Jesus to change us internally as we follow Him.

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. From our Hokey Pokey ways, we need to repent. Speaking of repentance, there is a beautiful prayer of repentance spoken by King David after he had sinned with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed.

David Found Forgiveness and Mercy

Psalms 51:1-4 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...

Yearning to walk clean before God, David continues to pray.

Psalms 51:10-12 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

A beautiful prayer, spoken by a broken man.

The Cover Up Game

But it took David a while to arrive at the point. Why? He thought it just might be better to try to hide and cover up his sins, not to confess and let God or others in on his dirty little secrets. He tried to hide and cover his sins by playing the cover up game and it made him miserable.

Psalms 32:3-4 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 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?)

David looked clean on the outside, but he was dirty on the inside, and he was wasting away.

- Some of you are here at this point today. What are you to do? What did David do?

Psalms 32:5 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.

Guilt is a heavy load for any of us to carry through life. David, an adulterer, and murderer, uncovered, and God covered him with His grace and mercy and a clear conscious. You can do that too.

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,

ILL: Have you ever played the cover up game - hide and seek with your kids? Isn't it funny when a child covers up, and just because they can't see you, they think that you can't see them.

(Cover up with a blanket.) This is how ridiculous we look when we try to cover our sins from God.

"I'm going to cover my sin, my rebellion, and God won't know."

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 tear 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 to God and then to others. *"Oh, yeah, I've got it together."* Our lives are a lie.

Bold Next Steps: Today, I will honestly look at my own life and see if I am playing some sort of cover up game.

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.

David Got 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 spoke the truth in love.

- David could have killed Nathan on the spot, but instead 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? Attend Life Group, we get Nathanized. When we read Scripture, we're Nathanized.

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 _____." He knows.

When we uncover our sins, and 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.

What We Uncover, God Covers with Mercy

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.

When we uncover our sins, confess, 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.)

Bold Next Steps: Today, I will take responsibility for my actions, come clean and uncover, confess, and renounce my sins.

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, often it's not a pretty thing.

1 John 1:6-10

- 6 "If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**
- 7 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.**
- 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**
- 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives."**

Song: "Create in me a clean heart." Keith Green

Salvation Call