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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language: Sing
A Song Of Christians (SOCVII)

By God And Richie Heinlein
(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: Garfield And Friends

Episode: Clean Sweep

Topic: Purity (Holy Life)

I) Opening Prayer

II) Opening Discussion: Today, we are discussing a decently broad (but narrow at the same time) topic called purity. Our focus for this lesson is holy living. What is your definition of holy living? What is in your opinion the popular opinion on holy living, do people like it or not? Why do you have this opinion?

III) Cartoon Show: **Clean Sweep**

IV) Bible Study: Matthew 7: 13-14; Isaiah 40: 9-31; II Peter 2: 1-3; I Thessalonians 4:

1-12; Luke 11: 37-54 (If Interested See

Parallel In Matthew 23—Whole Chapter)

The Bible States:

Mt 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Mt 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

The Bible States:

Isa 40:9 You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

Isa 40:10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

Isa 40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

Isa 40:13 Who has understood the mind of the LORD,
or instructed him as his counselor?

Isa 40:14 Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?
Who was it that taught him knowledge
or showed him the path of understanding?

Isa 40:15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

Isa 40:16 Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

Isa 40:17 Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

Isa 40:18 To whom, then, will you compare God?

What image will you compare him to?

Isa 40:19 As for an idol, a craftsman casts it,

and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and fashions silver chains for it.

Isa 40:20 A man too poor to present such an
offering
selects wood that will not rot.
He looks for a skilled craftsman
to set up an idol that will not topple.

Isa 40:21 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was
founded?

Isa 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of
the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

Isa 40:23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to
nothing.

Isa 40:24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,

no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like
chaff.

Isa 40:25 “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

Isa 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the
heavens:

Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by
one,

and calls them each by name.

Because of his great power and mighty
strength,

not one of them is missing.

Isa 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

Isa 40:28 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isa 40:29 He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Isa 40:30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

Isa 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

The Bible States:

1Pe 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice
and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander
of every kind.

^{1Pe 2:2} Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,
^{1Pe 2:3} now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Bible States:

^{1Th 4:1} Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

^{1Th 4:2} For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

^{1Th 4:3} It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

^{1Th 4:4} that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

^{1Th 4:5} not in passionate lust like the heathen,
who do not know God;

^{1Th 4:6} and that in this matter no one should
wrong his brother or take advantage of him.
The Lord will punish men for all such sins,
as we have already told you and warned
you.

^{1Th 4:7} For God did not call us to be impure,
but to live a holy life.

^{1Th 4:8} Therefore, he who rejects this
instruction does not reject man but God,
who gives you his Holy Spirit.

^{1Th 4:9} Now about brotherly love we do not
need to write to you, for you yourselves
have been taught by God to love each other.

^{1Th 4:10} And in fact, you do love all the
brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge
you, brothers, to do so more and more.

^{1Th 4:11} Make it your ambition to lead a quiet
life, to mind your own business and to work
with your hands, just as we told you,

1Th 4:12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

V) Discussion II: As Garfield in the very first part of the cartoon short said: “And pay attention, there’ll be a test at the end”. Well, there is. In this cartoon, we see something interesting. Shlock‘O promises a “gingerly” washing with its laundromutt and didn’t deliver. No one wanted to be cleaned up by this machine that was very rough with our characters’ washings and our characters were laughing at everyone else’s misery and

causing it. Do you know of anyone that is like our characters (attempting to put dirt on someone else via stumbling block) or that you think is too rough with God's cleansing message (not addressing the needs of sinners along with sharing the Gospel). In this group of scriptures, we see two things.

First, we see that there is a set of rules.

Second, we see God's promise spoken of by the prophet Isaiah. God promises gentle help in the scriptures that I think personally is the conviction of the Holy Spirit (which

can sound rough at times), but will also help with the needs of the individual as well.

However, we have to be willing to not do things that will make us dirty. Instead of laughing at someone's misfortune (sin, needs etc.), we need to be genuinely concerned for the salvation and well being of the individuals that we try to help and witness in the right way.

There is a price to pay for this lack of grace that I am talking about. This is that Jesus

isn't pleased when we are bad witnesses (I am glad for His grace).

The Bible States:

Lk 11:37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.

Lk 11:38 But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

Lk 11:39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the

cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

Lk 11:40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

Lk 11:41 But give what is inside — the dish—
to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

Lk 11:42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should

have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Lk 11:43 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

Lk 11:44 “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it.”

Lk 11:45 One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

Lk 11:46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

Lk 11:47 “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them.

Lk 11:48 So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs.

Lk 11:49 Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.'

Lk 11:50 Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world,

Lk 11:51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

Lk 11:52 “Woe to you experts in the law,
because you have taken away the key to
knowledge. You yourselves have not
entered, and you have hindered those who
were entering.”

Lk 11:53 When Jesus left there, the Pharisees
and the teachers of the law began to oppose
him fiercely and to besiege him with
questions,

Lk 11:54 waiting to catch him in something he
might say.

Dude, that sounds harsh, but it is warranted.

The Pharisees in their hearts obviously

wanted religion over the faith in the Lord

Jesus. The Pharisees figured that their

religion would be a good cleanser. As we

understand it from the Word, the dirt on the

inside makes the outside unclean no matter

how much washing we do and this religion

thing that they were doing was a rough

“cleanser” and ineffective to boot. Jesus

knew that these Pharisees were either

deceived into thinking they would have been

better to our prophets or they were intentionally trying to pull a fast one on our Lord (neither one works).

What happened at the end of the cartoon?

As our characters proved in a very mean fashion, the laundromutt was probably a bad idea. This machine was seemingly effective on the outside but it bred inside dirt, and then of course, the outside dirt showed up again. This is a very bad effort by a repeatedly offensive company in this Garfield series of cartoons and our lessons.

Nothing beats the touch of the gentler normal bath physically when it comes to hygiene. God handles the spiritual part of our hygiene in His gentle fashion. God cleanses us with His spiritual soap (Jesus' blood), as we are able to get clean with good old-fashioned physical showers and baths (which pets need as well).

When we do the wrong thing in witnessing, it could make the lost not want to be clean because of the rough nature of a bad witness (the attempt to help without the grace of our

Lord). There is a difference however in witnessing to one that is just plain not wanting the type of grace presented.

Unfortunately, most will want justification regardless of what we say and it may turn into tough reminders of the Divine law spurned by said people. These people need much prayer or they will sadly have little to no chance at salvation because of unbelief and being unrepentant. This is not meant as anything but a strong warning of the coming judgment and condemnation, not

condemnation in of itself. A lot of people will however take this warning as being judgmental and not as it is intended. How do we show more grace to the lost ones while showing them who God wants them to be (In other words come to Jesus for forgiveness because we don't want them to perish)? What have we learned in this lesson? How will you witness correctly with the Gospel and show the grace that Jesus has in us?

VI) Closing Prayer