

## **FROM RAGS TO RICHES**

Pastors Bible Hour – January 6, 2008  
Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson  
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Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isa 64:7 And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Zec 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

Zec 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

**Zec 3:3 - With filthy garments** - The emblem of a poor or sinful state.

### **HEBREW PEOPLE WORE GARMENTS**

1. They wore garments to express their innermost feelings. Garments were also worn to show forth the moral laws of the God they represented.
2. The Hebrew people were graceful, modest and wore exceeding significant garments, which not only told who they were, but also garments that signified their social status.
3. They wore bright colors of purple, scarlet, blue, white, yellow & black.
4. The bright colors were to show joyfulness and festival occasions.

5. Mourning or the Humble ones-self, they wore sackcloth. Clothes made from sackcloth were considered to be the poorest king of dress. And was a indication of a low feelings
6. The rending or the tearing of a garment was to show a persons grief or great distress.

### **But In This Lesson Today:**

1. Joshua was showing the condition of Israel in their sinfulness, by wearing of filthy garments.

### **Man in his Lost Condition:**

1. **Life is spent without hope:**

Job 7:6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

2. **Strangers for the Covenants and Promises of God**

Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

### **What is Man?**

1. **Left His throne in glory to die for one such as I.**

Psa 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Psa 8:4 **What is man, that thou art mindful of him?** and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Psa 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:

Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;  
Psa 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, *and whatsoever* passeth through the paths of the seas.  
Psa 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth!

1. **What is Man**: Who is wretched, miserable man, man in his fallen state, full of infirmity, ignorance and sin?
2. **That thou are mindful of him**? That thou settest thy heart upon him, and keepest him continually in thy merciful view.
3. **And the Son of Man**: That the Savior would leave His throne in glory
4. **That thou visitest him**? By sending the Holy Spirit to convince him of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

**“When He Reached down His hand for me, when He reached down His down His hand for me, I was lost and undone, not deserving God’s son, when He reached out his hand for me.”**

### **David and Mephibosheth**

2Sa 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

2Sa 9:2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art* thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is he*.

2Sa 9:3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet.

2Sa 9:4 And the king said unto him, *Where is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, *he is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

2Sa 9:5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

2Sa 9:6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

2Sa 9:7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

2Sa 9:8 And he bowed himself, and said, What *is* thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?

### **A STORY FROM RAGS TO RICHES:**

Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

### **The Four Lepers**

2Ki 7:1 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time *shall* a measure of fine flour *be sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2Ki 7:2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see *it* with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

2Ki 7:3 And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

2Ki 7:4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians:

if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

2Ki 7:5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there.

2Ki 7:6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

2Ki 7:7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it *was*, and fled for their life.

2Ki 7:8 And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*.

### **The Periodical Son's Return**

Luk 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

Luk 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Luk 15:19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luk 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luk 15:21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Luk 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

Luk 15:23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

Luk 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

**ONE DAY WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE THESE RAGS (VILE BODIES) FOR A GLORIFIED BODY**

Phi 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1Co 15:55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

1Co 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

1Co 15:57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.