

RESTORATION REVIVAL

lesson six

NAKED

The title of our radio broadcast is
Restoration Revival Hour.

In this series of lessons, we want to study the meaning behind that title. This should give greater awareness of the need of the hour in which we live. It is an hour when God is wanting to restore and revive His people, that they may be found watching and waiting - ready at the coming of the Bridegroom for His Bride.



LESSON SIX



NAKED !

Zechariah 3:3

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

I thought Joshua was the high priest! What's he doing with filthy garments on?

We're talking about restoration - and here's the priest with filthy garments on!

No wonder God wasn't blessing! Even the priest needed to get cleaned up! Yes, the priest needed something from God; needed to be dealt with by the Lord.

How are these people going to have real blessing and real refreshing if even the priest needs to get straightened out? What can be done?

Zechariah 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.

This wasn't just a suggestion from the Lord. He was getting right to the point about the matter of wearing filthy garments.

Let's examine this issue of filthy dress in the Scriptures -see [Genesis 2:25](#)

We can go back to the garden of Eden and see a couple who had walked in their nude before God - never feeling the least bit uncomfortable; never feeling shame before each other in their nakedness.

But Satan slipped one over on them, tripping them up to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And, as soon as they sinned, we find there was a clothing problem with Adam and Eve!

After they sinned, their eyes were opened.

The first thing they recognized was their nakedness -
both naturally and spiritually -

they were not only physically naked,
but were spiritually naked as well.

**They had sinned,
and had no covering in the presence of God.**

I want you to know that sinners are naked before God. They have no garments on. Maybe you see them with clothes on - but they're naked before God.

As soon as Adam and Ever realized they were naked, they took leaves and began to make themselves clothes - see [Genesis 3:7](#)

This is figurative to us - Adam and Eve had sinned, and realized they needed some sort of covering. They were no longer innocent. Their eyes had been opened to sin. They didn't want their nakedness to be seen, and they needed a covering.

But the covering they made out of those leaves wasn't sufficient in God's eyes, so He made them a covering from some animal skins - see [Genesis 3:21](#)

God's covering was something that was costly., costing the life of an animal in order to clothe these two sinners.

We can follow this a long way in the Bible - **and here in Zechariah we find the priest needed a covering. He had garments on: but they were filthy.**

God proceeded to tell Zechariah that He had caused Joshua's iniquity to pass from him - which was His way of saying He had cleansed Joshua from his sins and now He was going to provide a new, clean garment.

Take note that he had to have a new garment!

If we would examine that, in light of what God says about our present generation - and about the people at the end of this age - we'll see that our garment is of great importance.

Now, it's bad enough to be found wearing filthy garments - but take note that Adam and Eve had **NO** garment! **NO** covering!

In God's eyes,
that's just the way we looked
before we got saved.
We were naked - apart from Christ.

Clothes only hide your nakedness from those around about you - but realize that you are naked - you're just wrapped up with clothes. You were made naked, and you'll leave this world naked.

- see Revelation 3:15-19

This portion of Scripture shows what lukewarm people are like in the eyes of God - they are in one of three states:

HOT - on fire

COLD - dead

LUKEWARM - neither cold nor hot

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
So then because thou art lukewarm,
and neither cold nor hot,
I will spue thee out of My mouth.

God says that He is not going to accept that which is lukewarm. He says He'd rather you were hot or cold - **but to be lukewarm . . .**

In that state, God can't do anything with you. He can't change you or make anything worthwhile out of your life because you don't see your need.

Being lukewarm is to be in a state where people have mere religion. They continue on religiously, and God can't reach into their religious state.

Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest,
I am rich, and increased with goods,
and have need of nothing;
and knowest not that thou art wretched,
and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. . .

That's the state of the lukewarm church in God's eyes.

They **say they have need of nothing** -
while, in reality, they are naked.

Remember, now, I'm talking about spiritual things: about being naked as a church. These Laodiceans, no doubt, wore clothes on their bodies - yet, spiritually, they were naked.

In the eyes of God, a garment, then, is something that covers us - as to say, He puts a garment of righteousness on us to cover our sins.

Saved people have on a spiritual garment -

Yes, those who have been -

born of the Spirit of God
washed in the Blood of Christ
filled up with God

These have on a spiritual garment. God sees them through the covering of the Blood, through the righteousness of Christ.

But when the church gets into such a state as the Laodiceans did, God sees it as being naked. He doesn't see the lukewarm church favorable in any way

- He sees a church that's not acceptable unto Him
- **a church that thinks it's IT**
- **when it really falls far short.**

This church was not only lukewarm - but it had this idea inside that what it had was good and right, acceptable with God.

Yet, just because they **said** it, didn't make it true.

Now, maybe this idea bothers you. Maybe you are saying that **you are** rich and in need of nothing.

The church of our day, as a whole, is getting richer and richer and richer. There are churches in America today that have so much money they don't know what to do with it all!

They squander and waste it on foolishness, on pleasures, on things that have no spiritual value -

while other churches are struggling along with barely enough to keep going.

The Laodicean church was rich, having need of nothing - yet didn't realize they were really poor, and blind, and naked.

They said they were rich - yet were poor. And that's the description of the church in this day of apostasy.

A church in this state needs some kind of restoration.

The Lord says

He will spit the lukewarm out of His mouth.

Is there any hope?

Is there any hope for this church?

Can this church be brought out of this state?

Can the last day lukewarm church be awakened?

Can it suddenly realize that it's boasting in its riches, yet in need of restoration?

Yes, such a church can be restored.

It needs to get back to basics of:

the principles of the faith

the blood of Jesus

trusting the Savior.

Imagine going on thinking everything's all right - yet have the Lord standing **on the outside!**

THE SOLUTION

Revelation 3:18,19

I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire,
that thou mayest be rich;
and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed,
and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;
and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve,
that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:
be zealous therefore, and repent.

God does have a means of restoration - for those who will be restored. And the counsel of the Lord is clear.

You're running around saying you have all you need - when you don't have it.

You go around boasting that you're rich naturally - instead of being rich spiritually.

Buy of Me gold tried in the fire;
and white raiment!

Anoint your eyes with eyesalve!

Be zealous, and repent!

The Lord wants us to be rich - but He's looking for us to gain the true riches, not just the goods of this world.

When we have our sins covered; when we're walking under the blood; when we're dressed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ - in fine white linen - **that's when we're found acceptable unto God.**

Seventy years in the land of Babylon would bring forth gold tried in the fire in the lives of backslidden Israel. It wasn't going to be easy, but it was going to bring a blessing.

They'd be severely tried during that period of time - but they would come forth as gold.

There's going to be a multitude who aren't ready to meet Jesus at His coming. There's going to be a multitude who are defiled and naked - and what are they going to do at His appearing?

In this account here of the church of Laodicea, the Lord is relating that He's going to deal with sin. He knows what He's doing; and He knows just how He's going to accomplish His purpose.

His counsel to that church is also His counsel to the lukewarm today.

FIRST OF ALL!

Realize that you have no clothes on
if you're lukewarm.

You're naked, and everyone can see the shame of your nakedness.

You know when someone's hypocritical and half-hearted - they don't really live the life. It's not generally hid from others. They dabble in sin - and everybody knows it. They might think they're fooling others - but they're not.

They want everyone to think they're so spiritual - but God has pulled the covers back, so all can see the shame of their nakedness.

The churches around the world today are slipping more and more into lukewarmness - to where God can't freely deal with them any longer.

He gets no response from them when He deals to stir their hearts to repentance. How can He awaken them?

HOW?

He makes it quite clear how.

I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire.

I Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith,
being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,
though it be tried with fire,
might be found unto praise and honour and glory
at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Understand, if you want to get out of a lukewarm state,
you'd best buy some of that gold.

You'd best have some of those fiery trials -

that you can't squirm out of
that you can't escape by leaving town
that will get you on your knees
that will cause you to cry out to God -
till you get cleansed and purified
and set free,

and get a garment of righteousness upon your life.

People want restoration - but they don't want their sins dealt with.

**These two have got to go together:
repentance and restoration.**

We've been looking at Joshua the high priest and how he was wearing filthy garments. God wanted to bless - but, before He could bring forth the blessing, the priest had to get sanctified. He had to get those filthy garments off - and, when he got ready to remove them, he found a purging was there.

God cleansed and washed Joshua, setting him free from his sins.

What is a priest in such a state as this for? In a backslidden nation, we might expect that the priest would be like this. But, how did the nation get into this state to begin with?

The prophets prophesied lies; the priests came along to daub them with untempered mortar - it went from one thing to the next, farther and farther away from the truth.

There was this conspiracy in the land - and Jeremiah prophesied their doom because of it. And now they need help.

Restoration was needed if anything was to change. Restoration was going to come. But before it could come, somebody's got to get cleaned up.

Where's God going to start?

Remember, the Bible teaches that **judgment must first come to the house of God** - 1 Peter 4:17. God will never bring judgment unto this world, until first He judges His own house, judging those who name His name.

Judgment must first begin at the house of God. And, if it begin with us, where will the world and the ungodly and the filthy stand?

**God is wanting to be merciful -
so He's going to bring restoration.**

And - He's going to start in His house!

And, in that He's going to start
in the house of God,

He's going to start at the top.

We find, here, when God began to bring restoration, He started with Joshua the high priest. He started at the very top.

If the high priest didn't get cleaned up, there wouldn't be any cleansing elsewhere.

Many times there'd be great revival in a church if only God could find a humble preacher who'd start to preach the Bible, declaring the whole counsel of God.

God is intending to clean up His house - but He's going to first clean up the ministry.

If He could get a preacher who'd get filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with the fire of God - and start saying it like it is - then there'd be something happening in that church.

But, as long as there's a preacher who's filled with complicity and compromise - not seeing any need at all to bear down and deal with the sins of the people, not seeing any need of putting aside his compromising ways - he holds the church at bay.

He prevents them from receiving God's full blessing.

If there's going to be restoration in such a church, it will have to start by restoring the pulpit - getting down to the business of cleaning up the ministry.

It's a shame that men will put themselves in the position of not wanting to get cleaned up for God - and then stand in the door to hinder others who should be having revival.

Many times, the people don't have revival, because the ministry is wearing filthy garments.

Here's a priest who is going to get cleaned up - in [verse four](#), God says He will cause Joshua's iniquity to pass away, and clothe him with a change of raiment.

I thank God there's a change of raiment. That change of raiment is the change that all of us need.

It was granted unto the Bride of Christ that she should be arrayed in fine white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. - [Revelation 19:8](#)

There is a garment to wear -

and it's a white garment!

If you've ever worn something white, you know how difficult it is to keep it clean. It seems so easy to get a spot on a fresh white dress. You don't dare to sit down for fear you might get some dirt on you - the smallest spot stands out so clearly on white.

Think of the pure white garments that God has provided for us - His righteousness arraying us in fine white linen. It covers our spiritual nakedness.

Think about the priest, now, he needs a change of raiment!

Zechariah 3:5-6

And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head.
So they set a fair mitre upon his head,
and clothed him with garments.
And the angel of the Lord stood by.
And the angel of the Lord protested unto Joshua,
saying . . .

We find Joshua is being clothed with clean garments - priestly garments. He's dressed now like a high priest ought to be dressed.

God's forgiven him of his iniquity, and is now putting him back in his rightful place of being an example of purity to the people.

Then, why was the angel of the Lord protesting unto him? why did he begin to speak strongly and firmly in protest to Joshua the high priest.

We live in a land where we expect quick results:

Can you fix this right away?
I don't want it fixed today -
I want it fixed yesterday!

We want quick answers to every type of problem we may face:

Give me a pill that will make me whole
as soon as I swallow it!

Everything is instant today. We live in a push-button, hurry up, quick-fix society.

Get me in and right out again!
Push me to the head of the line!
Don't make me wait for a second!
I can't wait that long!

Well, God doesn't have any quick-fixes!

If God's going to fix it, He's going to take time to fix it right - or not bother to fix it at all.

If God is going to work a work in your life, then He's going to do it in the right way. He's going to come to you and deal with you in the right way.

And He's going to bring you down the path of righteousness in the right way.

He's going to instruct you - not in your ways, but in His ways, to cause you to walk with him in holiness and righteousness.

But I don't want to go that way! I don't want it like that!
I know what I want to do - and I intend to do it my way.

God knows your attitude. He knows you want things done your way - and He knows that your way won't get you anywhere - but back to square one. You're kidding yourself if you think you can make any progress going your own way.

Zechariah 3:7

Thus saith the Lord of hosts;
If thou wilt walk in My ways,
and if thou wilt keep My charge,
then thou shalt also judge My house,
and shalt also keep My courts,
and I will give thee places to walk
among these that stand by.

Now, what was the angel protesting?

There are a few ifs here:

If Joshua will do certain things then God will bless.

Do we ever stop and think that God would expect us to do a few things in order to receive the blessing?

If we want restoration in this last day, we may have to do a lot more than we realize! We might have to go a lot further than we think.

If you walk in My ways - was that asking too much of the high priest? The high priest ought to walk in God's ways, shouldn't he? Is it unreasonable of God to expect His high priests to walk in His ways?

And if thou wilt keep My charge -

IF you will keep that which I've committed unto you!

IF you will fulfill your duties as a high priest,
and be responsible unto me!

IF you will do what you're supposed to do. . .!

We need to awaken God's people to understand the way to restoration.

They want everything from God. They're ever crying out for another miracle; ever looking for another blessing; ever looking to reach out for something else

- but they never stop to consider
that maybe there's something
God wants of them!

One thing God wants of you and I - and I don't think it's unrighteous of Him to ask: He wants us to walk in His ways - not in the ways of this world.

LOVE NOT THE WORLD!

I John 2:15-16

Love not the world,
neither the things that are in the world.
If any man love the world,
the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life,
is not of the Father, but is of the world.

If you're harboring a love for something of this world; if this world is an attraction to you - you're missing something.

And the thing you're missing is the love of God. His love is not in you! the love of the world is!

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the strait gate:
for wide is the gate, and broad is the way,
that leadeth to destruction,
and many there be which go in thereat:
because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life,
and few there be that find it.

Strait is the gate and narrow is the way. Jesus expects that we will follow this narrow way - if we don't, we'll find ourselves on the broad way that leads to destruction.

Many want that broad road. They follow it and pursue it., The modern lukewarm church is on the broad way that leads to destruction - and only Jesus can get them to turn and walk the narrow way.

Now, back in Zechariah, we saw where the Lord told Joshua, **If thou wilt walk in My ways, and if thou wilt keep My charge . . .**

He wasn't unreasonable to ask the high priest to keep His ways, and to keep His charge. If he would do this, then he could judge God's house, and take care of God's courts.

You can be My man - IF you will do these things. We'd like to be God's man - but we want to be our own man, too.

It's a shame that things got into this state here with Joshua - but God is bringing restoration. He had to start at the top, and His blessing was going to come upon all who would be willing to go His way.

RESTORATION OF SPIRITUAL THINGS

We have already noticed, in the previous lesson on Ezra, something happened - they had gotten the foundation of the temple laid: and there came a time of joy and rejoicing.

**Before joy and rejoicing comes,
there has to be deliverance;
there has to be a restoration of spiritual things.**

Remember, God means more to us than a building. And, back in the days of Ezra, God was doing more than building a large building and calling it the temple, the House of God.

A REASON FOR REJOICING

The ancient men weren't just joying and rejoicing over the natural foundation that had been restored. If you thought that was the only reason they were having such a hallelujah time, you missed something in this account.

Ezra 3:10

**And when the builders
laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord,
they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets,
and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals,
to praise the Lord,
after the ordinance of David king of Israel.**

THE PRIESTS CHANGED THEIR GARMENTS

Notice that they were ready to have church - and the priests weren't wearing filthy garments. They were in their rightful apparel; their spiritual clothing; their beautiful garments. They were set in order -

THE LEVITES WERE ALSO SET IN ORDER

Not only are the priests set in order, but the Levites were also set in order.

The Levites were the ministers of God. We find they'd gotten cleaned up, too. They'd gotten themselves into the place of spiritual leadership, to the place where they were right with God.

And, now, they were able to lead the people in joy and rejoicing in the house of God.

There had to come the day of the dealings of God in the life of Joshua the high priest before all these other things took place.

God knew there'd be no real time of joy and rejoicing while the priests were wearing filthy garments - while their sins had not been purged; while their iniquities had not been cleansed away.

THE PRIESTHOOD WAS PREPARED

We see that, when this day of restoration came, the priesthood had gotten prepared for this.

God was not only bringing them back up out of the land of captivity; not only setting them back in their land . . .

He was also restoring them
back to His principles

You may think all they had to do was re-enter their land, and set up housekeeping. But there was more than that involved.

There had to be a **full and total restoration** to restore the temple; to rebuild the temple; to bring temple worship back into being.

BACK TO THE BOOK

They were going to **have to go back** to the book, back to the law of Moses - **back** to all that God had previously said - and they were going to have to begin to do things the way God said to do them to begin with!

That's the very reason they were carried out of the land - they weren't doing things God's way. Sin and iniquity were abounding in the world of that day.

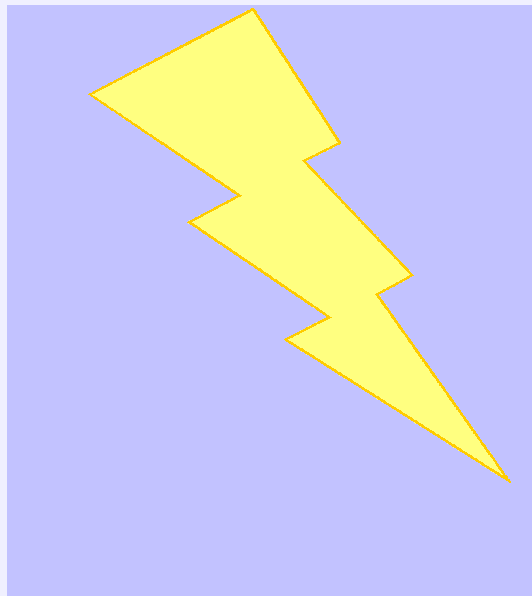
But God brought restoration.

He dealt,

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:
be zealous therefore,
and repent.

and the people heeded His dealings.



Take the Test