Good House Keeping dot com has a list of over 30 commonly misused household items:

* Shoes used for a hammer.
* Butter knives for screwdrivers
* Anyone care to confess something you’ve used for something other than what it was intended for (misused)?

The Holy Spirit led me this week to drill down on the word “Holy”.

What it means and how, when used properly, it can make:

* Our life better…
* The lives of others better…, and most importantly
* Benefit the Kingdom of God (which is why Jesus saves).

Let’s start by looking at some common misuses of “Holy”…

* Cow
* Mackerel
* Smokes
* Toledo
* Hell, etc…

These are but a few…

Why do we do it? I can only speak for myself… I can remember being a young impressionable child, and watching TV shows… (like “Batman & Robin)… Hearing Robin “Holy \_\_\_\_\_ Batman” …

There is actually a 2 minute YouTube video (although I wouldn’t suggest watching it) of Robin’s “50 holy sayings.”

Some people might think, “come on man”… “freedom of speech”… “it’s just a “common phrase…” it doesn’t mean anything…

Which is exactly the point… the world views “holy” as a common way to hyper-express themselves…

But to the follower of Jesus, “Holy” is what God is… completely different than we are.

God and things of God should be held in high esteem, instead of brought down to the ultra low level of mankind.

This message will reveal why…

Will saying “Holy \_\_\_\_” make a person miss heaven?

The Bible doesn’t say it will specificly…

No more than if you drink, smoke or chew, or run around with girls who do…

The question for the “true follower of Jesus” however is, WWJD and WWJDI? Why would Jesus do it?

And as we learned last week Romans 8:14 children of God are led by the Holy Spirit...

So really the right question to ask is, What would the Holy Spirit have me do? WW-TH-SH-MD

So let’s allow the Holy Spirit to help us discover more about this important subject this morning.

The word Holy/holiness appears 592 times in the Scriptures.

Two of the most important passages that should be of interest are;

* 1 Peter 1:15-16 - Peter writes to Christians facing harsh Roman persecution at the hand of Emperor Nero (being fed to the lions for sport and crucifying Christians and setting them on fire to light the roads at night).

Be holy, as God is holy, regardless of the difficulties you may face in life.

Don’t let what happens in you or around you change who Christ died and saved you to be. Keep making life better.

* Hebrews 12:14

God reveals that… Since we can’t see the Lord with it…

1. Holiness is critical.

* Holiness is closely connected to our behavior.

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone!

Led by our flesh, that is an impossible task…

Because people are going to disturb your peace!

They will ruffle your feathers:

* Politically
* Socially
* Morally
* Emotionally
* Financially and sometimes yes, even
* Spiritually

And since “eye for an eye” is the “common”, natural response of the flesh, it never leads to peace.

But we’re not going to dive into behavior right now…

We need to go deep into where “Holiness begins” for us…

1. Holiness is separateness.

Looking at it from the flip-side, *un*holiness is rightly defined as “common” or something not set apart for God’s use.

So to be “holy”, means to be set apart for God’s use.

The Hebrew word used for “Holy” is Ko-desh. It means:

* A sacred place or thing (Sanctity of human life)
* Consecrated (something) dedicated for a sacred purpose.
* Hallowed (Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed Holy…)
* Saint
* Sanctuary

So to be “Holy” is to be set apart from that which is “common”. God’s special property. For His special redemptive purpose.

But we must be careful to avoid extremes…

God does not call His people to be “so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good!”

Nor does He call us to the opposite extreme: “Of being so worldly minded that we are no heavenly good.”

Focus on making life better for others… instead of yourself and you will find God making you Holy.

The very first time the word “Holy” is used in Scripture, is Moses’ encounter with God at the “burning bush” in Exodus 3:5.

God said to Moses; “Do not come any closer, take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is “holy ground.”

When residents of Camp Verde hear the words “holy ground” they may think of snakes, gophers, skunks, squirrels and the like…

But when God says “Holy ground” He means a sacred place, consecrated, set apart for His sacred purpose.

When God views something as Holy, whether it’s ground or people (you and me)… He doesn’t view it as it is (common or un-holy)… but sacred/holy…

The ground was “Holy” because it would be the place where God worked thru Moses, to save/redeem/deliver the Israelites…

* Mt. Sinai was set apart to reveal Himself to Moses and the Israelites.
* God used this sacred place to write His Law on tablets of stone.
* If the Israelite people would have separated God and that place in their hearts…
* They would have shown Yahweh God love and gratefulness for rescuing the and giving them a new beginning…
* But if you know the historical account, you know that did not happen…
* They disrespected God and the Holy Ground that He had set apart for them to gather.
* They made God common/un-holy by melting the gold they were allowed to take from the Egyptians…
* And used it to form the image of a golden calf which they began to worship as god, because they grew tired and impatient of waiting for their leader Moses.
* Exodus 32:28 tells us 3000 people died as a result of disrespecting “Holy God” on the ground He consecrated/sanctified for His purpose.

I’m going to share a word with you now that the Holy Spirit gave me as I was working on the message.

Perhaps it would have helped the Israelites, but I believe it can still help you and me today.

It is the word “Sacrosanct”.

* “Regarded as too important or too valuable to be interfered with.”
* “Not to be entered or trespassed upon.”
* Above or beyond criticism, change, or interference.

Why did the Israelites let God and their leader Moses down?

Because they did not view God or the place where they were standing as “Sacrosanct”.

If they had…

* They would have seen God and the ground they were standing on as too important and too valuable to be brought down to their level.”
* They would not haven taken God lightly and which resulted in them doing what they felt was right.
* They would have seen God (and His representative Moses) as above… beyond any criticism, change, or interference. Sacrosanct…

How did Moses respond when God told him, this is “Holy Ground” Exodus 3:5? Sacrosanct

He stopped, and took of his sandals! Trust & Obey

Because he…

* “Regarded God as too important or valuable to be interfered with.”
* Someone who is above and beyond criticism, change, or interference… “HOLY”.

Is that our attitude when we assemble together to worship Him here on Sunday mornings?

Do we pour our hearts out to Him in worship?

Do we to trust & obey Him when He speaks to us by His Holy Spirit and His Holy Word?

Do we regard Him as too important or too valuable that we rarely miss worship or Wednesday Bible study?

Let’s move on from the O.T.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for Holy is Hag-ee-os. Which means: Sacred - physically pure, morally blameless or religiously consecrated (most holy) Saint.

The word Holy appears early on in each of the 4 Gospels.

Matthew 1:18 It is used to describe the Spirit of God who brought the Virgin Mary to become miraculously pregnant with our Savior, Jesus.

Mark 1:8 - John the Baptist stated that he was baptizing people who were confessing their sin, in the Jordan River.

He said that when the Savior comes, He will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 – Jesus promises His followers that they will indeed receive the POWER of the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in and around their world.

Luke 1:15 – Holy describes the Savior’s lifestyle and the fact the that the power of God would be with with him from birth.

So much for those who said “even Jesus drank wine” as justification for their choices.

John 1:33 – The Holy Spirit descending upon Him at His baptism would be the way John the Baptist could identify the sacred Savior/set apart, used by the Father to rescue whosoever would believe in Him.

It is also a sign of the infilling of God’s Holy Spirit in us…

As He produces outward signs of an inward change…

A separation from the “commonness” of our world…

Sending us back into the world to reach and disciple some…

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Let us show our love, appreciation and gratitude to our Holy God now.

By obeying His Word and remembering Him through partaking in Holy Communion.

Let us pray

Our father in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

We stand here on this sacred and holy ground that you gave to a pastor in his congregation coming up on 30 years ago.

* This ground is dedicated for Your sacred and holy purpose.
* For our Holy act of worshipping You and making disciples who will make disciples.

We stand here by your grace, through faith, love, and in the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Please forgive us our sin whenever we may have lost our way and brought you down to our low level, making You and Your word out to be common or ordinary when it is not.

Help us every day to view you and your word as above, high, and holy. Sacrosanct

Above and beyond any criticism or interference, and in doing so may we stick like super glue to Your Holy Spirit.

Because therein lies the abundant life that makes life better for ourselves, others, and advances your Kingdom.

Pastor Read - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

As Dee comes forward, we are going provide Communion in the sacred way we had in the past.

Please come down the center aisle with your hands cupped to “receive” the “sacred”, “Holy” body of Christ that was given in love, for our sin.

Then dip the bread in the cup and “receive” the “sacred”, “Holy” blood of Christ that was shed for our sin.

Video song while partaking of the elements

Closing Song – Living for Jesus

Go live - Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23