

A little over a year after this, thousands of people responded to the gospel preaching of the Apostles around Jerusalem (Acts 1-5). A great many of them, I believe, were people Jesus healed, along with many who witnessed His healings. The love shown to them led them to become His followers. Their bodies had been healed and they let Him heal their souls. God's saving love must be received to be experienced.

A mother saw her son lying drunk on the floor. She looked at his father through her tears and said, "He won't let us love him, will he?" We let God love us spiritually by giving Him our sins to forgive and our lives to change.

Some boys were playing in the street and a car, traveling fast and out of control, was heading for them. A young lawyer saw what was happening; shouted for them to run, as he ran out to help a boy that had fallen. He pushed him out of the way but the car crushed the lawyer's hips and he never walked again.

Years later, that boy killed a family of three for drug money. When the Judge came in at his trial, he was in a wheel chair. The young man recognized him as the man who saved his life. He thought to himself, "I may get life in prison, but he won't sentence me to death". When the Judge gave him the death penalty, he was given a chance to speak. He said, "Judge; don't you remember me?" The Judge said, "Yes, I remember you every time I sit in this chair." The young man said, "You saved my life! How can you now take my life?" The Judge said, "Young man, back then I was your **savior**, but today I am your **judge**."

Two thousand years ago, the Son of God went to the Old Rugged Cross as our Savior. But if we refuse to follow Him, He will be our Judge in the life to come. He loves and died for those who reject Him in this life and He also loves them in the life to come.

In heaven, every time we see the scars on Jesus' hands, we can sing, "Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow." If a song could come from the unsaved in eternity, it would be: "Of all sad words of tongue or pen; The saddest are these, "**It *might have been!***"

2. Clash with Jewish Leaders from Jerusalem
over Ritual Washings
Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23; John 7:1

NO DEAD ENDS - GOD MAKES A WAY

When Jesus went back to Capernaum, He had one year to live. Time was running out. He faced the gigantic task of preparing the Twelve to be the leaders of His church. With the constant pressure of the crowds in Galilee, there was no way He could find the time to do it. To take them away for an extended period of time would be difficult, because they were family men and working men who put food on the table when they were not with Him in other areas.

God opened the door and made leaving a necessity. A delegation of leading Pharisees from Jerusalem, were now stationed there. He had escaped their "trap" to kill Him by not going to Passover; so now they came to His home town to get more evidence or even to have Him arrested. Also, King Herod, who killed John the Baptizer, was now investigating him and the "Twelve". Jesus added to the danger. One day when the delegation "**gathered around**" Him like vultures, He called them "hypocrites" publicly, in front of the crowds. That was like poking a Grizzly Bear and the disciples knew it. They said, "**Lord, don't you know how much you offended the Pharisees?**" Now they **had** to leave.

*In God's will, there are no "dead-ends".
He always opens a door for us.*