

Year B #330

***Filthy Rags for His Righteousness***

***MP3 - Disk 2 - Track #8***

***TWR Track #115***

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

How are you today? You know, you are very precious to us because, although we haven't seen you face to face, you are on our hearts and in our prayers. We want to hear how God is working in your life. What a privilege that we can reach you over these radio waves. Do feel free to not only be praying for the work and the ministry as this goes out over these air waves, but also to feel there are brothers and sisters who love you in Christ. We want you to stand strong in Him and together we might stand strong in our lovely Lord Jesus. So write today and let us know what the Lord has been saying to you.

In **Isaiah 64, verse 6**, it says that there is not one soul who is so far gone that God cannot cleanse and receive. It is an incredible verse. It was one of the first verses I ever turned to when I came to the Lord Jesus. For it says — **But we are all as an unclean thing . . .** Boy, have you ever seen a group of children and some child is spoken to for doing something? The first thing that comes out of the child is - "Well, we all did it!" I always remember my husband saying he did many naughty pranks at school, but he never did throw plums at the headmaster from the roof! But for some reason, he got pulled out from

school for this because they felt it was the type of prank he might play, and therefore, he must have done it! Somehow or other, we don't mind standing as a gang, but when it comes to being accused alone of something, we say, "No - they did it!"

But you know, God levels us all off, for He says -

**6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags . . . filthy rags!** You know a man in those days had to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" if he was a leper. He would take these bits of old rags that he had and wipe those running, horrible sores. Could you imagine? He would take that same filthy, horrible rag, and wipe again the next running sore! And they were filthy rags, loaded with infection, but though they were in a terrible, horrible, smelly state, they were all he had. So he would take these filthy rags. That is how God talks about how we stand in **our righteousness**. There is no righteousness except in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. It takes a long time, for somebody like myself, who thinks they are serving God. I was religiously minded and thought I had a higher standard of life than a lot of people I knew, and morally, I felt I got top grades. Yet, all the time, God said, "You are on that same level!" When we understand this, somehow we can understand the love of God shed abroad in our hearts for other people. We don't categorize people and think, "Well, they are my kind. I can reach them because I seem to understand them. They are of my profession and we have a lot in common."

Instead, it is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Soul Winner, living in me. I can just reach out and I might meet somebody who is on a level that I have never understood before, but the love of God causes me to be concerned for him.

It was many years ago that my husband and I were ministering in South Africa. I saw this fellow struggling with a very, very, very poor little stick under his arm, which was supposed to be some kind of crutch for him. I realized that he was having problems with his arm. I went over to him and asked if I could help him and what was his problem. His mother was near by. I realized that the crutch didn't fit under the arm and it was cutting off a nerve supply. So, not only did he have a problem that he needed a crutch for something, but it was cutting the nerve supply to his arm because it was a mal-fitted crutch.

I realized that this was no big deal; this could be taken care of and he could be helped so that he didn't then lose the use of the arm as well as his other problems. What did it take? It was at that time that, before we knew it, there was a whole group of people around investigating what we were doing, causing this public gathering. I said, "It is nothing more than the kind of gathering in the Bible. When Jesus worked and Jesus spoke, people gathered." When Jesus works and Jesus speaks through you, of course, people will gather. It is not always that people are very pleased that you are standing and doing those things, but you are to use the incident, that God brings in the

midst, to uplift the Lord Jesus. You speak to them that this is a body in trouble and getting more and more crippled with a misfitting kind of a crutch being used. That one would never do; he needed another. You, thereby, show that because of our sin and our need, we need Jesus Christ.

Can you speak to people on a different level and feel they are above you? No. We are all on that level. . . . **we all do fade as a leaf; and and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.** Every one of us can identify with what that says. Somehow or other, we are not what we thought we would be. It all came about because we didn't let Jesus be our All in all. He died on the Cross to pay that price for you.

Will you today say, *Lord, yes - I need You! Only You can clean and infill by Your precious Holy Spirit.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





