



***Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.***

***January 2016***

***“Overcoming Dirt”***

I have managed property on State Road 84 here in Fort Lauderdale for some 45-50 years, working for my father, functioning as his trustee and then as my mother’s trustee, and then for myself and my sister. Recently, after 42 years as a tenant, one tenant had to leave...period.

Now tenants enjoy something called “quiet enjoyment.” But watching this tenant leave and walking around the property he had leased, it was evident: he was a hoarder. Dirt, debris, old this and old that; the property of 22,000 square feet was completely covered everywhere you looked.

My husband, Pastor Jim, took it on as a project—cleaning the dirt. It seemed overwhelming. He felt like Nehemiah rebuilding the wall. He went around and assessed the task. He devised a plan. He knew there would be opposition, both spiritual and otherwise. He started in one corner of the property.

This clean-up project began last May. Every three weeks a 20-yard dumpster filled full would be removed and replaced by another. Some men from our fellowship came from time to time to help, and it has been most appreciated. Some men came to take things away “for free.” That also helped, as for example, when a conservation organization found some tubs that could be used for little otters. Wonderful. Praise the Lord.



Dirt. I found Pastor Jim’s first picture above artistic.

This dirt was underneath carpeting. It was packed solid, years of it covering white porcelain tiles. The walls consisted of rotting paneling, hiding what was at one time, really good wood paneling underneath. When I saw this picture, I thought, “There’s a message in here to believers.”

God accepts us as we are when we receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives. We come to Him as we are; but we are not to stay as we are. We are covered with Christ’s righteousness, and defined as ‘holy in Christ,’ but then we are to become what God has declared us to be. We are to allow the Holy Spirit to direct the project of cleaning up our lives.

How much dirt might there be in our lives? Lots, much lying beneath the surface, hard-packed under filth. We might not know “clean” unless we see it by revelation in the Person of Jesus Christ, who is holy, undefiled, harmless, and spotless.



Here is a mountain of dirt, just from one part on the floor of the office. You get a hint of the white porcelain tiles trying to shine forth. You can also see the rotted paneling hiding other paneling.

We start at a corner and just keep sticking to the program of sanctification/healing God has for each of us. It takes a plan, help, and direction from God, perseverance on our part and God’s faithfulness on His part. The pile gets picked up for removal.



Let’s do this! Well, now we can see that the white tiles are not so clean after all; but what an improvement. We have to keep going. We have to! God’s happy with the progress. We’re encouraged. We must keep pressing toward the mark.

This was a five gallon container. It got filled to the brim and then hauled out to the waiting dumpster. That’s because **dirt is matter out of place**. This dirt didn’t belong here. Score one for overcoming dirt!

Now remember, man was made from dirt, from the dust of the ground. Genesis 3:19. From dust we came and to dust we return. So is that it? No.

The Word always was God. The Word became flesh (meaning God Incarnate, Jesus, took on a human body) and dwelt among us. John 1:1, 14. The place where Jesus was born was dirty. It was a stable, a place for animals. God chose this humble position for the birth of His Son. Luke 2:7

Jesus was known as a carpenter, and if you’ve ever been standing around when carpenters are working the wood, you know how the dust flies and the wood shavings fall around...out of place now.

The land of Israel is not only full of little stones and rocks; it is dirty. The ground is dusty. Jesus had His feet washed, and He also washed the feet of others. Leave that dirt where it belongs; and it doesn’t belong stuck to feet!

And then there’s spiritual dirt. We’ve crossed the boundaries of life and transgressed into death when we sin. We’ve become unclean and broken God’s holy law, which is spiritual, pure, clean, and good. We have been defiled. We feel dirty.

Jesus rejects our sinful humanity, our sin, but He became sin who knew no sin that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21. Holy, spotless, and undefiled, Jesus clothes us in His righteousness that we might have access and be accepted in Him before His Father, who is holy.

We touch dirt, and we get dirty. Pastor Jim wears gloves and a mask while working on the clean-up project. Jesus touches us and purifies us; He doesn’t become defiled. His touch sanctifies. His touch cleans us up. We are made clean by the words which He speaks. We are made clean by the Blood of the Lamb shed for the remission of our sins. We are made clean by

the washing of the water of the Word. We are purified by fire as the Holy Spirit consumes the dross in our lives.

If we're facing another new year hoarding our dirt, fearing to throw out what is out of place in our lives according to the wisdom of God, we need to ask God to grant us repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, that we might recover ourselves from the devil who is holding us captive at his will [to do his will]. 2 Timothy 2:15, 16. Haul that dirt to the dumpster. Tear down what's rotten and pitch it; take it to the dumping grounds. Let's put our lives in place.

Let's create a place where the Holy Spirit is comfortable. He's not against our humanity; He's against our sin, the things that devour, defile, destroy, block the blessing of God, and mar the image of the Glory-Spirit dwelling within every believer. Let's overcome DIRT!

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To this message are attached the "words" I believe I have received from the LORD for 2016.

In His Name, by His grace, for His glory,

*Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D. Min.

Wherefore, come out from among them, and be separate,  
Says the Lord,  
And touch not the unclean [thing];  
And I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the Lord Almighty.  
2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

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