



Little Lambs Inc.

John & Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

<http://www.littlelambsinc.org>

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Dear Little Lambs,

“Tillie, guess who’s coming to dinner,” teased Joey Drayton, the daughter, in that 1967 Spencer Tracy/ Sidney Poitier movie classic by the same name. a concerning but amusing surprise awaited both families. Sadly, this iconic movie has been all but moth-balled in today’s “everybody’s a victim” culture. Somebody’s feelings might be hurt by yada, yada, yada. But that lament must wait for another day.

Our newsletter devotion this month comes from Chapter 11 of Luke’s Gospel. Beginning in verse 37, a certain Pharisee actually invites Jesus into his home for dinner. And Jesus graciously accepts, never foregoing the opportunity to teach and evangelize. Not knowing the arrangement of things in a traditional Pharisee home, one would guess that this Pharisee needed to notify someone-- his wife, the servants, the butler, the cook - with a shout, “Hey everyone, guess who’s coming to dinner!”

Now before jumping to conclusions, should we give the Pharisee the benefit of the doubt that his dinner invitation to Jesus was sincere? And that the Pharisee was genuinely interested in knowing more about Jesus? Well. . . I don’t think so. How many times in Scripture had the Pharisees poked and prodded and taunted Jesus with their corrupt plan of trickery, entrapment, and deception. No, this dinner invitation was almost certainly a set-up to discredit the “honored” guest. The Pharisee wasted no time in setting the trap. Every good Jew and especially the fanatical Pharisees, had been taught from birth the - *netilat yadayim*-the necessary hand washing ritual before every meal (myjewishlearning.com). So when the host Pharisee noticed that Jesus had already taken a seat,

“ . . . He (the Pharisee) marveled that He (Jesus) had not first washed before dinner (Luke 11:38 KJV)

Although it is not clear from verse 38 whether the Pharisee actually spoke up or just thought harshly against Jesus, he was clearly annoyed that Jesus had not completed the hand-washing ceremony before taking His place at the table. But “thoughts” are words to Christ Jesus and He answered with a reprimand of His own.

Of course, Jesus knew the Law of Moses. There would have been a cup and a wash basin nearby for Him to use. The Pharisee and the other guests would have already washed up. And Jesus knew full well that by not going along with the other guests in their ceremony, His refusal would ruffle feathers. Certainly, Jesus was not unsanitary, but He wanted to use this teachable moment.

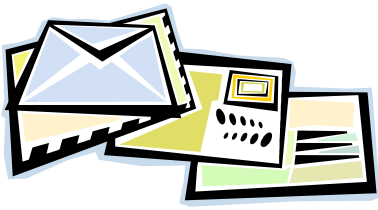
Over the years, Jesus’ many rebukes of the Jews for their insistence on strict compliance with these ceremonial laws had fallen on deaf ears. So this time Jesus took a different tack. And He did the unthinkable. He chastised His host in the host’s own home, in front of the other guests. Gasp! Using the simple cup as His prop, Jesus addressed the absurdity of only washing the outside of the cup, while leaving the inside filthy dirty. Jesus reminded everyone that the same potter who made the outside of the cup also made the inside, tacitly delivering the certain truth that the same God who made man in His image to be holy, required that holiness to be inside and out. Not done yet, Jesus declared in verse 39 that His host and guests were “full of ravening and wickedness,” even throwing in a few “Woe unto you” “You hypocrites,” and “You fools.” Ouch! Guess who’s coming to dinner indeed!!

This shocking but unavoidable truth lay before them. The absence of this ceremonial washing did not defile a man. Just the reality of that fact would have gutted a thousand years of ‘law’ for the Pharisees.

Jesus’ scolding of His host and other guests provoked everyone to anger. So much so that Luke concludes Chapter 11 recording that the scribes and Pharisees were “laying in wait” for Jesus that “they might accuse Him” (Luke 11:53-54).

Acting against all rules of etiquette, the Pharisee had tried to entrap and discredit the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. But Christ Jesus could not and would not accommodate or tolerate this Pharisee’s hypocrisy. If a man’s heart is not clean, it does not really matter whether he has washed up for dinner.

Blessings to all, Mike Rider, Volunteer



Dear Little Lamb's Ministry,

I want to thank you for all the studies that you have shared with me and helped me to learn in order to know God better and my relationship with Christ more. Your lessons have been a pleasant challenge to me and I have learned a lot because you guys use the most effective and powerful teaching too, the Word of God! I can't believe its been almost two years since I started receiving lessons from you guys and I will miss them. I will sign-up for other ministries but I really enjoyed the studies you have taught me. Please keep up the work of God in reaching out to the lost in prisons and jails all over, for this is a great area of need as you will know. I pray that God may continue to bless this ministry and keep providing for it so you may reach the hearts of many and lead them to salvation!

I love the cards you send with each lesson and for Birthdays. They cheer me up and my family likes them too! Please keep me in your prayers. I am 26 years old and still have 18 years to serve. I know God is able to change that of course, but I pray that he will continue to use me here and strengthen me to lead others to Him and Jesus' saving power and new life.

So please keep in your prayers that God may continue to work in my life for His glorious purpose! And also to continue to comfort and strengthen my family while I am away. Your prayers mean so much to me, for they are righteous and powerful through Him. Manny, Ca

Dear Partners,

So much is going on here, it's hard to keep it all together! As we talked about earlier, we are repairing the upstairs for occupancy and there is so much to be done. More importantly, we have found all the sins of the construction done before us!! There have been major structural errors we had to correct and wiring changes. Joey has been absolutely great in his work and very careful and efficient. We are now re-ceiled and getting ready for painting. The railing above and around the stairs was not really safe, so that is now being made secure and safe as well as being enclosed. Our friend Albert has been very helpful in getting rid of all the old machines and trash that littered the attic spaces and the rooms. We had unexpected expenses in the process, and would be grateful for your help, if you are able, to accomplish the work.



At this same time, I am trying to get my own home ready for sale. I am hoping to be ready by December. It has been quite an experience, saying goodbye to the home I have lived in for 25 years! It is an old Florida home, as old as the ministry building, 1925, with very high ceilings and foot thick walls and wood floors. I have a very lovely yard and garden which are my favorites, but I have reconciled to let them go. My neighborhood has been a very nice place and great neighbors that have made me feel very safe after John died. I have never feared during a hurricane because the walls are so thick and the old Florida pine wood so hard and strong. I usually have to go outside or open a door to see how strong the winds are or how bad the storm. It is also located on a ridge and no threats of flooding! The Lord has provided very well for me!

Another change in the works is a new addition to our volunteer staff. We are welcoming Chris Malave from 2nd Chance Ministry to our Little Lamb Family. Chris, originally from New York, has graduated from the recovery program, 2nd Chance Ministry. He is an ex-Marine from his earlier years, and unmarried. From a Pentecostal background, he was active in his church in Orlando. He feels led by the Lord to join us. I hope to be training him for the next six months or so, hopefully in the prison too. Thankfully, Chris is very computer literate! Which is a must for us!



On a very good note, I want to thank everyone for their prayers! They have been heard. Texas Department of Criminal Justice has reversed the mail edict and will now permit us to mail our lessons directly to the inmate at the prison. Our volume is growing and new students increasing to a student body of 1,165. Thank you for your generosity. What we often hear in the correspondence is the gratefulness for the return envelope, which you make possible. Each box of 500 costs \$365.00! Here's looking for a much brighter future! Your servant,

Eileen Sala