

A Clean Slate - Psalm 51:1-12

THEME: Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start.

OBJECTS: whiteboard/dry erase marker/whiteboard cleaner.

Talk 1

This morning I have brought a whiteboard with me... And one of the great things about whiteboards is that you can write reminders or messages on them... you can also use different coloured markers on it to make your message or picture stand out... making it more interesting...

If you are writing with a black marker and you want to make a word stand out from the others, you can switch to red or blue... or put a line underneath or even a ring around your words...

Of course, if you make a mistake, you can just wipe it off... like this... and start all over again...

The more mistakes you make... the more you can rub it out & start afresh...

How often do we try and make a fresh start at something... I mean... when I've just stuffed something up and got it SO wrong... the right thing to do would be to start over again... have another go... wipe away the past and get on with a better future right?... Rub it out... and begin again...

What about New Year Resolutions... anyone made any?... (write a few down)... now... honesty please... whose has broken one yet?... (rub them off as they are mentioned – do this several times so as the board is “stained” a little)..

Well at least when we get things wrong we do get another shot at getting better... just like this whiteboard we can keep rubbing out our failures and start again...

Talk 2

*"Although you wash yourself with soda and use an abundance of soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me," declares the Sovereign Lord. Jeremiah 2:22*

One thing I have noticed about the whiteboards is that as you use it time after time, you begin to see some stains left on the board... You can wash it with soap and water... but the stains won't come out... That is why someone invented this special whiteboard cleaner... Just spray it on and wipe it with a cloth and the stains of the old marks are gone... and your board is as white as new.

Some of the mistakes we all make are more than simply making a wrong decision... There are some things that we have done that God has told us in the Bible not to do... We call that sin... Some of those sins we have done time and time again and no matter how we try to remove them... they have left a stain upon our lives which we cannot erase...

We need God's forgiveness to take away those stains... that's why we say a prayer called *Confession* in our service (we said it earlier)... we can have God's forgiveness because of what Jesus did for us... Did you hear the Psalmists words?...

In Psalm 51 David says (Vs 1&2) *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin"...* and later in Vs 7b *"wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow"...*

Jesus is like this special whiteboard cleaner... If we turn to God & ask him to forgive us for the things we do wrong... he will wash away our sin and we will be white as snow... no stain... a fresh start...

We don't need to make New Year Resolutions... we can't rub out our wrongdoings ourselves... but we can truly start the new year... indeed every day... with a clean slate!- thanks to God's Forgiveness through JC Amen