

THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON (BUT NOT MUCH EXCUSE)

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. – Acts 2

I came across this list this afternoon, looking at some evangelism “war stories” and resources. It’s directed at all of the excuses – no, wait – reasons that are given for not coming to church. But they are re-crafted as reasons never to wash.

1. I don’t wash because I was forced to wash as a child
2. I don’t wash because people who wash are hypocrites; they think that they’re cleaner than the rest of us.
3. I don’t wash because there are so many kinds of soap that I could never decide which one is right.
4. I don’t wash because I used to wash, but it got boring.
5. I don’t wash, except on Christmas and Easter.
6. I don’t wash because none of my friends seem to wash, and they’re doing okay.
7. I don’t wash because I’m still young. I’ll take washing more seriously when I’m older.
8. I don’t wash because I really don’t have the time.
9. I don’t wash because the bathroom isn’t warm enough.
10. I don’t wash because the people who make the soap are only interested in your money.

And I’ll add on a few.....

11. I don’t wash because the other people washing will just wonder how often I wash.
12. I don’t wash because I’m afraid I won’t know anyone else who is washing.
13. I don’t wash because I knew someone who washed, and s/he was a horrible person.
14. I don’t wash because I washed a couple of times before and the next day I barely felt like I’d washed at all
15. I don’t wash because there are a lot of germs where people wash.

We could probably go further. We’ve all heard these, perhaps even said some of them ourselves. The truth is, there is a need and a benefit to gathering in community with others for worship, learning, and study that is as basic and essential as cleaning ourselves. But yet so many find ways to dismiss it.

The book of Acts speaks so beautifully of the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church. The first century was a time of amazing transformation and power for the church, even in the midst of persecution and oppression. Likewise, there is remarkable strength, comfort, hope, and truth awaiting us if we are willing to wash. I mean, go to church. See you there. I’ll bring the water. God loves you and so do I.

P.B.