**FOCUS** in 2020

April 26, 2020

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Founding and Lead Pastor*

**LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE**

***Part 2 – Bless This Mess***



**Welcome to the messiest place at my house.**

**We all have mess in our lives.** If you have got kids at home during this time,   
you are probably experiencing some messes of epic proportions. Some of   
you might agree with the sign …

Sorry about the mess … but **we live here**.

Do you have a place in your house that compared to everything else, **it is kind of messy?** A closet, a room, a junk drawer, the attic, your garage? Some of you have been taking on projects during this stay at home time and **you have made a mess.**

Creative people do not have messes … they have ideas lying around -everywhere.

**We all have messiness in our lives** and at times like this, in seasons where we are under stress, increased anxiety and worries … well let’s just say our messes are more visible and some of them more painful. **Messes are a part of life and we all have them and we all make them.**

**Mess** - a disordered, untidy, offensive, or unpleasant state or condition

I know a **mess** when I see one because I **am** one!

*And me?* ***I’m a mess****. I’m nothing and have nothing: make  
 something of me. You can do it; you’ve got what it takes -   
but God, don’t put it off.* Psalm 40:17 (The Message)

Do not let your **mess** get in the way of God’s **message**.

**Life is messy.** For some of us, **that scares us to no end.** We do not know   
what to say, what to do, how to engage, or how to help.

*People are messy; therefore, relationships will be messy. Don't be surprised  
 by messiness*.  Tim Keller

**Messes scare us because we have no quick fixes for the deep wounds we  
 and others face:** depression, anxiety, eating disorders, broken relationships, miscarriage, loneliness, unemployment, deteriorating health, wayward children, death of a parent, disability, and the list literally goes on and on.

Loving where you live is messy because **life** is messy.

It just is. We do not live in a Norman Rockwall painting with tranquil, idyllic landscapes.

**But here is the thing** - Messes actually bring us together, like a pandemic,  
 a shared reality that we are living through, a shared humanity. **The mess  
 that plagues humanity is the mess** that brought a Savior into the world.   
You might say …

The mess that brings us **together** is the mess that brought God **near**.

**In the gospel story, His grace and love shine more beautifully than ever in the messiness of our lives.** Paul writes in Romans 8:3 in the Message translation …

***God went for the jugular*** *when he sent his own Son. He didn’t deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son,* ***Jesus, he personally took on the human condition****,* ***entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity*** *in order to set it right once and for all.* Romans 8:3 (The Message)

Your mess has the **potential** to bring you closer to God.

*For God did not send his Son into the world to* ***condemn*** *the world, but in order that the* ***world might be saved through him****.* John 3:17

Jesus invited messy people to follow Him while they were still messy.

**Woman caught in adultery**

*Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I* ***condemn*** *you;* ***go, and from now on sin no more****.”* John 8:10–11

**She made a mess of things … but then she met the Messiah.**

**Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector**

*Behold, Lord, the* ***half of my goods I give to the poor****. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything,* ***I restore it fourfold****.* Luke 19:8

*And Jesus said to him, “****Today salvation has come to this house****, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to* ***seek and to save the lost****.”* Luke 19:9–10

**He made a mess of things … but then he met the Messiah.**

**Woman at the well**

*Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but* ***whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again****. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* John 4:13–14

The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; **for you have had five husbands,** and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” John 4:17–18

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said  
 to her, “**I who speak to you am he**.” John 4:25–26

Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. **Can this be   
the Christ**? John 4:29

**She made a mess of things … but then she met the Messiah.**

**Thief hanging on the cross**

And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, **today you will  
be with me in paradise.**” Luke 23:42–43

**He made a mess of things … but then he met the Messiah.**

Here is what Jesus offers all these people … and here is what Jesus offers all   
of us who have messes that we must clean up.

Jesus offers **Himself** as the solution to our messes.

“**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Our mess can become a **redemptive** **moment** in our lives where we see   
God restoring, forgiving, and making new.

You cannot pray yourself out of a mess you have **behaved** your way into.

You can **follow** your way out.

In the end, your **mess** becomes your **message**.

Once I was **lost,** but now I am **found**, was **blind** but now I **see**. I was living in greed, now generosity. Skeptical and now believing. Anger and now at peace. Apathetic not loving God and others.

Everyone has a mess until they meet the Messiah and then your mess becomes your message.

**BLESS this mess!**

**B**egin with pray for your neighbors.

**L**isten to their stories of life, pain, struggle.

**E**njoy food, conversation, and connection; share a meal.

**S**erve them in real ways; come alongside them and invite them to help you.

**S**hare your messy life and your Messiah story.