



What a Mess

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260218/>

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. Isaiah 59:15b-17

Have your parents ever walked into your room, looked around, and said, “What a mess! Who is going to clean this up?” Uh-oh—that’s never a good sign. Maybe toys are everywhere and clothes are on the floor. It’s as if everything just exploded!

Or think about this: you worked really hard on something—maybe you cleaned your room or finished a school project—and then later it’s messy again. That can feel really frustrating. You might think, “Hey! I already fixed this! How did it get messed up again?”

God knows what that feels like.

God created the world perfectly. When he finished, the Bible says God looked at everything he made and said, “It is very good.” The project was done. No mess at all! But then sin entered the world. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Their relationship with him was broken. The world itself became broken too—people got sick, argued, and died. This was not how God wanted things to be. The perfect world he loved was now a mess.

So God asked the big question: Who is going to clean this up? The Bible says in Isaiah, “He was appalled that there was no one to help . . . so his own arm achieved salvation.” That means God saw that no person could fix the mess of sin. People tried—but failed. Kings made bad choices. Prophets were ignored. God’s people kept turning away from him.

So God did something amazing. He cleaned up the mess himself. God sent his own Son, Jesus, to rescue the world.

On Ash Wednesday, we start the season of Lent. Lent helps us to remember how serious sin is—but also how great Jesus’ love is. During Lent, we think about how Jesus suffered, died, and rose again to forgive our sins. Sin made a huge mess—but Jesus didn’t walk away from it. He stepped right into it to save us.

Questions to Consider

- How do you feel when you clean something up and it gets messy again right away?
- Jesus fixed the biggest mess—sin. What is one thing you can thank Jesus for today?
- Why couldn't people fix the sin problem by themselves?
- What does Lent help us remember about Jesus and what he did for us?
- Why is it important to know that only God—not people—could save us from sin?
- During Lent, what is one way you can remember Jesus' love in your everyday life (at school, at home, or with friends)?