



VERTICAL SPORTS

3D DEVOTIONAL

(8/22) – Washed Clean (Machine Pitch)

Sport: By the end of a baseball game, a uniform can be a complete mess. Grass stains. Clay ground into the knees. Dirt streaked across the chest. Sweat. Mud packed into every crease.

But something happens before the next game. That dirty uniform gets washed.

The stains that looked permanent are cleaned. The mud is gone. The dirt that covered the jersey is no longer visible. By the next game, nobody is talking about yesterday's stains because the uniform has been made clean again.

That is a picture of what Jesus Christ does with sin.

Life: We see areas of sin in our own life - Pride, anger, selfishness, lying, jealousy, rebellion — all of it leaves marks on our lives. Some people try to hide it. Some try to outwork it. Some pretend it is not there at all.

But no amount of effort can wash away sin.

Truth: Only Jesus can do that. **1 John 1:9** says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Notice that the verse does not say Jesus covers sin. It says He cleanses us. Completely. **Psalms 103:12** says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

When God forgives, He removes the stain. He does not keep bringing it back up again. A lot of players carry guilt the same way they carry pressure. They replay mistakes constantly. One error, one failure, one bad decision, and they believe they are permanently marked by it.

But Jesus specializes in making dirty things clean. **Isaiah 1:18** says, *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”* That does not mean sin is no big deal. Sin is a life and death matter. It took the death of Jesus on the cross to pay for our sins. The cleansing came at a cost.

But because of His death and raising from the dead on the 3rd day, forgiveness is available to anyone who repents and trusts in Him. Some people keep waiting to “clean themselves up” before coming to God. That is backwards. A dirty uniform does not wash itself. You come to Jesus dirty, and He makes you clean. Not because you earned it. Not because you deserve it. But because of His grace.

And just like yesterday's dirt is forgotten when the next game starts, your forgiven sin is no longer held against you by God.

Pray