

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Spring Cleaning

My husband can always tell when I've been cleaning the house...The place is a wreck. We have a regular routine for these occasions, however, and it goes something like this:

"Hi, honey!...I see you've been busy today."

"How can you tell?" I beam.

"Just a lucky guess," he counters, as he steps over some boxes in the living room.

"See if you can find what I've been working on...all day!" comes the challenge.

"Hmmm..." And he makes his way slowly around the debris, peering into corners and inspecting nooks and crannies.

"Want a hint?" I offer; and then, without waiting for a response, "It's somewhere in the bedroom!"

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A cursory glance at the room in question is usually no help; so, before a failure can occur, I majestically open a dresser drawer and display the contents with a regal sweep of the hand.

The drawers are neat, clean and lovely to look at.

“Very good, honey,” he smiles; and then, with a twinkle in his eye, he might add, “It reminds me of the time you cleaned the closet!” (We took a picture of that one...)

Needless to say, I am not the world’s best housekeeper...at least, on the surface. I suppose I could have spent the day cleaning the stuff that one “sees.” That way, I would have at least have appeared to be the competent housewife to anyone entering the front door. As it is, how many people bother to look into dressers if they can’t even get through the living room?

But there’s something very special about a room...or a closet...or even a dresser that has had a thorough cleaning from the inside-out, even if the rest of the house hasn’t been straightened! I find that I keep going back to stare at it. I’m proud of it, almost to the point of inviting friends in for a peek. A party atmosphere prevails...at least in my heart. Something clean from the INSIDE...and I’m reminded of the parable of The Prodigal Son, for he was changed from within...cleaned, so to speak...and Jesus said,

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“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” [Luke 15:7]

Of course, the parable would fit my situation more closely if the whole house had been clean...with the exception of one drawer, instead of the opposite...but we work with what we've got.

And maybe that's why Jesus' death had to happen the way it did...a “complete disaster”...to thoroughly clean every soul in the house.

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