

JANUARY 2

**“UNTIL YOU’RE CHANGED
FROM WITHIN, YOU ARE NOT
A CHANGED PERSON.”**

READ

Matthew 12:43-45

It’s one of those passages that grips you, isn’t it? “The last state of that man is worse than the first.” Why worse? Because when he cleaned up his life, his life was not filled up with Jesus. That’s the problem with self-reformation, New Year’s resolutions: in the long run, you end up the same old self, spiritually worse off than when you began. Christ is saying to us that His temple, our body, can actually be cleaned up, and filled up. It’s not about being “better.” Jesus wants you to understand that unless you’re convicted of sin and transformed by the Holy Spirit, you’re just as lost as when you began. Feeling bad for your actions and deciding to change is not the same thing as when the Lord shows us our sin, and we invite Him to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Then the Holy Spirit moves in and fills us up. Until we acknowledge that our sin is not merely against ourselves or others, but against God Himself, all attempts to clean house in our hearts are in vain.

PRAY

Jesus, show me any places in my heart that need to be cleaned out by You. Forgive me for sinning against You, and fill me.