



# **Session 1:**

# **Jesus Spit**

**September 9, 2019**

**Rev. Doug Gray**  
**First Church of Squantum**

**Bible Study Based on**  
**Leonard Sweet's**  
***The Bad Habits of***  
***Jesus: Showing Us***  
***How to Live Right in a***  
***World Gone Wrong***

# **I. Introductions and Prayer**

**A. Leonard Sweet writes:**

**“Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he had habits and behaviors that were considered bad in the eyes of the culture of his day.**

**Some of them seem  
wrong today. All of  
Jesus' "bad habits,"  
however, reveal  
truths about God's  
love and message  
that are vital for us."  
(p. xv)**

**B. Leonard Sweet  
writes:**

**“Would Jesus offend  
you today? If not,  
you are missing the  
scandalous nature of  
Jesus, the rabble-  
rousing rabbi, as  
told in the stories of  
the Gospels. Jesus  
revealed a God who**

**has gone to great  
trouble over every  
person in every  
corner of the world.  
No one is not worth  
God's trouble. That  
is why Jesus came to  
to trouble us with  
the truth:  
that it is only in  
being "bad" in the**

**eyes of the world  
that we can be  
“good” in the eyes of  
God.” (p. xvi)**

## **II. God the Potter (Genesis 1:26–2:7)**

**A. Read the passage.**

**B. First Telling —  
“Let us make**

**humankind in our  
image.”**

**1. How does God  
make humanity?  
What's God's  
template?**

**If you find a  
human, the way  
they are made  
reflects God!**

## **2. Where does humanity fit in Creation?**

**C. Second Telling —  
God forms us out of  
dust and breathes  
into our nostrils**

**1. What are the key  
ingredients for God  
making humanity?**



**2. Have you ever used a potter's wheel? Can you talk about what that experience was like? Could you do it without getting your hands dirty?**

**3. What do you think about the idea about God molding**

**and shaping you,  
getting dirty and  
breathing into your  
nostrils?**

**4. Which story do  
you like better?**

### **III. Jesus and the Blind Man (John 9)**

**A. As we read John 9,  
imagine yourself in**

**the story. Read the passage. How do you think you would respond to what happens? What do you think you would say to the person next to you?**

**B. List the different groups or individuals in John**

**9, and describe each group's/individual's perspective.**

**C. Which people are threatened by what Jesus does? Why do you think?**

**IV. Conclusions:**

**Getting into the  
“muck and the mire”**

# **Genesis 1:26–2:7 (NRSV)**

**Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of**

**the air, and over the  
cattle, and over all the  
wild animals of the  
earth, and over every  
creeping thing that  
creeps upon the  
earth.”**

**27 So God created  
humankind in his  
image,**

**in the image of God  
he created them;**

**male and female he  
created them.**

**28 God blessed them,  
and God said to them,**

**“Be fruitful and  
multiply, and fill the  
earth and subdue it;  
and have dominion  
over the fish of the sea**

**and over the birds of  
the air and over every  
living thing that moves  
upon the earth.”**

**29 God said, “See, I  
have given you every  
plant yielding seed  
that is upon the face of  
all the earth, and  
every tree with seed in**



**its fruit; you shall have them for food.**

**30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green**

**plant for food.” And it was so.**

**31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**

**Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth**

**were finished, and all their multitude.**

**2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.**

**3 So God blessed the seventh day and**

**hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.**

**Gen. 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.**

**In the day that the  
LORD God made the  
earth and the heavens,  
5 when no plant of  
the field was yet in the  
earth and no herb of  
the field had yet  
sprung up—for the  
LORD God had not  
caused it to rain upon  
the earth, and there**

**was no one to till the  
ground;**

**6 but a stream would  
rise from the earth,  
and water the whole  
face of the ground—**

**7 then the LORD God  
formed man from the  
dust of the ground,  
and breathed into his  
nostrils the breath of**

**life; and the man  
became a living being.**

# **Gospel of John, Chapter 9 (NRSV)**

**John 9:1 As he  
walked along, he saw a  
man blind from birth.  
2 His disciples asked  
him, “Rabbi, who  
sinned, this man or his  
parents, that he was  
born blind?”**



**3 Jesus answered,  
“Neither this man nor  
his parents sinned; he  
was born blind so that  
God’s works might be  
revealed in him.**

**4 We must work the  
works of him who sent  
me while it is day;  
night is coming when  
no one can work.**

**5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**

**6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,**

**7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of**

**Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.**

**8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”**

**9 Some were saying,  
“It is he.” Others were  
saying, “No, but it is  
someone like him.” He  
kept saying, “I am the  
man.”**

**10 But they kept  
asking him, “Then  
how were your eyes  
opened?”**

**11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”**

**12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”**

**John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.**

**14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.**

**15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”**

**16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God,**

**for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided.**

**17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was**



**your eyes he opened.”**

**He said, “He is a prophet.”**

**John 9:18**

**The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had**

**received his sight 19  
and asked them, “Is  
this your son, who you  
say was born blind?  
How then does he now  
see?”**

**20 His parents  
answered, “We know  
that this is our son,  
and that he was born  
blind;**

**21 but we do not know  
how it is that now he  
sees, nor do we know  
who opened his eyes.  
Ask him; he is of age.  
He will speak for  
himself.”**

**22 His parents said  
this because they were  
afraid of the Jews; for  
the Jews had already**

**agreed that anyone  
who confessed Jesus to  
be the Messiah would  
be put out of the  
synagogue.**

**23 Therefore his  
parents said, “He is of  
age; ask him.”**

**John 9:24 So for the  
second time they**

**called the man who  
had been blind, and  
they said to him, “Give  
glory to God! We  
know that this man is  
a sinner.”**

**25 He answered, “I do  
not know whether he  
is a sinner. One thing I  
do know, that though I  
was blind, now I see.”**

**26 They said to him,  
“What did he do to  
you? How did he open  
your eyes?”**

**27 He answered them,  
“I have told you  
already, and you  
would not listen. Why  
do you want to hear it  
again? Do you also**

**want to become his  
disciples?”**

**28 Then they reviled  
him, saying, “You are  
his disciple, but we are  
disciples of Moses.**

**29 We know that God  
has spoken to Moses,  
but as for this man, we  
do not know where he  
comes from.”**

**30 The man answered,  
“Here is an  
astonishing thing! You  
do not know where he  
comes from, and yet  
he opened my eyes.**

**31 We know that God  
does not listen to  
sinners, but he does  
listen to one who**



**worships him and  
obeys his will.**

**32 Never since the  
world began has it  
been heard that  
anyone opened the  
eyes of a person born  
blind.**

**33 If this man were  
not from God, he  
could do nothing.”**

**34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.**

**John 9:35**

**Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found**

**him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”**

**36 He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”**

**37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”**

**38 He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.**

**39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”**

**40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”**

**41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.**