



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.