



*Greater love has no one than this,  
that one lay down his life for his friends  
John 15:13*

## **Broke into the Stained Apartment**

**Read:** Matthew 21:1-11

When my grandfather was alive, I used to visit him on a regular basis. He had a small one bedroom apartment that had brown carpet and off color yellow walls. After he passed away, I remember cleaning his home. I soon discovered that the walls were actually white, but had been stained yellow with tobacco smoke. The room, which previously never bothered me, now appeared repulsive.

Christ's passion is the direct consequence of our accumulated sins. Just like my grandfather's apartment, sin slowly builds up in our lives until it leaves us living in a complete mess. The reason God the Father sent his Son Jesus was to die for our sins, so that our relationship with God could be restored. Cleaning up the apartment of our souls cost Jesus his life. It is his blood that cleanses our stained walls.

Sadly, it is in our nature to live in a messy apartment. We are a fickle people. Just like the crowds, we jubilantly profess Jesus one day, and then crucify him with our words and actions the next day. Sin is part of the human condition, and if we think our apartments are clean, we are "deceiving ourselves" (1 John 1:8). What should actually be repulsive to us becomes the comfortable norm. We need to change that.

Sin's effect on our lives is like my grandfather's apartment. If we allow it to permeate our lives, it will begin to stain our souls. We will get so accustomed to living in the filth of our sins that we won't even notice the mess. Eventually our decision to live in this state will become permanent. But it doesn't need to end that way. Choosing to clean the apartment resulted in fresh white walls and a bright living space. The same applies to our lives. The more we let Christ's forgiveness in, the more light our souls will possess.