

Matthew 23:27 "Soap"

When we were children, many of us may have thought of soap as our kryptonite in our superhero lives. Just takes all the fun out crime fighting of the day - jumping in mud puddles, fingerpainting, digging for worms, picking up that turtle so it can survive crossing the street, and yes, even throwing food at arch enemies. The noble acts just go on and on in the name of justice. Our mothers and fathers would command us to take baths and showers, and water should be enough - it's clean; you can see through it. But no, we had to use soap, because often, there was the dreaded question from a parent, "Did you take a bath?" "Yes." And then they lowered the boom, "Did you use soap?" Ughh - there it was. We innocently did not realize our heroism could have been greatly improved. Much more seriously, the Pharisees were not any different spiritually. Not so innocent, not humble as children can be, they spent their days distancing themselves from God's will in many ways, rendering themselves in need of forgiveness. Jesus responded by proclaiming they were dead spiritually - healthy on the outside, dead on the inside. Jesus' condemnation is not only a warning for us, but is also profound encouragement. God's grace and love cleans us where it matters most. Even in such a dead condition, the Pharisees only had to accept Christ, and they would have been washed clean and brought to life eternal instead. Jesus does so for us, if we only accept.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." -
Matthew 23:27 NASB

Read Matthew 23 for the full account.