



### 🌿 Clean Hands, Black Coal, Crooked Furrows

When Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark of the Covenant in 2 Samuel 6, he thought his touch was safer than dirt. The oxen stumbled, the cart shook, and instinctively he put out his hand. But God struck him dead on the spot.

To our modern ears, this feels severe. Yet as R.C. Sproul once said:

“The presumptuous sin of Uzzah was that he assumed his hands were less polluted than the dirt.”

The ground had never rebelled against God. It never broke His law. But man had. Uzzah’s hand, like ours, was polluted by sin — and he forgot that God’s holiness is not something we can manage or steady by our own touch.

### 🔥 The Child and the Coal

Picture a child by a campfire. The flames have died down, the coals look harmless. She picks one up. It doesn’t burn — but when she goes to wash, she finds the blackness won’t come off.

Sin is like that coal. It seems harmless at first, even “cool to the touch.” But once we pick it up, it leaves a stain water can’t wash away. What looks harmless ends up revealing our true condition: that we are marked by sin and unable to cleanse ourselves.

## Spurgeon's Mirror

Charles Spurgeon once put it plainly:

"You may look into a mirror to see the spots on your face, but you can't wash in a looking-glass."

A mirror reveals the stain but has no power to cleanse it. In the same way, God's law, or even our own conscience, shows us where we have fallen short. But awareness is not cleansing. We can't scrub the blackness away by staring at the reflection of our guilt.

### The Rabbit in the Field

There is another story, of a father teaching his son how to plow. "Fix your eyes on a tree or a post at the far end of the field," he said. "If you keep your eyes steady, your furrows will be straight."

The boy began plowing, but instead of a post, he fixed his eyes on a rabbit that darted across the field. Of course, the rabbit zigzagged, and when he looked back, his lines were crooked.

What we fix our eyes on determines the straightness of our path. If we look to distractions, temptations, or lesser goals, our lives will zigzag too. As Hebrews 12:2 reminds us: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

### The Thread That Ties Them Together

 Uzzah shows us God's holiness.

 The child and the coal show us sin's stain.

 Spurgeon's mirror shows us our inability to cleanse ourselves.

 The rabbit in the field shows us our need for focus on Christ.

All four converge in one great truth:

"The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

### Reflection for Today

Each of us has touched the coal. Each of us has looked in the mirror. Each of us has chased a rabbit across the field. The question is not whether we are stained or distracted — it is whether we will turn to the One who alone can cleanse and set our path straight.

 What "rabbit" most tempts you to wander off course, and how can you fix your eyes back on Christ today?