

Date: 9/8/2024

Text: Mark 7:1-23

Sermon: Ted Rastatter - Killing Our Inner Pharisee

Questions: Kraig Neer

In this week's sermon, Ted challenged the Church (himself included) to "kill our inner pharisee." We heard about what truly defiles us - the sin in our hearts (Vs 21-23). We desire to justify ourselves and win God's favor by doing something. But the heart of Christianity is not seeking self-justification by what we do, but by seeking that which has already been done by the once-and-for-all sacrifice of God. See also Acts 10 - Peter's dream leading to the first Gentile believers.

Ted proposed the way to kill our inner pharisee

1. Live under the authority of scripture
2. Understand the root of the problem
3. Rely on mercy and grace of Jesus

Because this week's questions may bring about more personal discussion, it is recommended to split into same sex groups to share more intimately about the sin we tend to struggle with the most. The questions are listed below, but you may also want to pray ahead of the discussion for repentance to rule in each of our hearts leading us to share the answers to the following:

1. What "heart issues" are we masking by our outward appearance? (Vs 5-7)
2. What "traditions" are shrouding our true defiling sin? (Vs 8-12)
3. How do we address an unclean heart? See also Psalm 51

Additional reference is Luke 18:9-14

The encouragement this week is that repentance of our sins and reliance on the mercy and grace of Jesus leads to what Ezekiel prophesied in chapter 36, verses 25-27 - taking us from white-washed tombs and dressed up corpses, and turning us into new creations that are cleansed by his blood.