

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **The Gospel According to Mark**

TITLE: **Clean Heart**

BIG IDEA: Transformation happens from the inside out when we follow Jesus not just rules.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read Mark 7:1-5

The religious leaders focused on the outward signs of

holiness. What are some modern examples of how we might emphasize outward religious appearance over genuine heart transformation?

Why do you think the Religious leaders were so concerned with the traditions of men instead of following the commands of God?

Read Mark 7:6-9

Do people still honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from him? Why does Jesus give these people the title hypocrite?

Can you think of an example of a tradition of man we have treated as a command of God?

Read Mark 7:18-23

How does Jesus's focus on heart over works challenge our tendency to focus on behavior modification rather than heart transformation?

What are following rules easier than following Jesus?

Read Jeremiah 7

How does recognizing the depth of our own heart condition change the way we approach spiritual growth and relate to others?

GROWING IN CHRIST

How have your daily decisions revealed to others you are living differently because of Jesus?

What is something that Jesus has transformed in you by starting on the inside (conviction) that caused you to stop, walk away from, or remove in your life?

LIVING AS A FAMILY

Why is it that so often we judge those outside the church (Tax collectors & sinners) but don't hold the ones in the church accountable to the words and ways of Jesus?

What is the difference between those who are church goers (rules) and those who are Christ followers (heart)?

SHARING THE GOSPEL

How could churches make sure that those who may not look religious feel welcomed and accepted?

Sunday we talked about the difference between spending time with sinners to affirm their lifestyle versus spending time with them to show how to be rescued and transformation. How can we practically live out this distinction in our relationships?