

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 24: Treating the Symptoms  
(Don't just treat the symptoms of a heart problem)

## **Mark 7:4-23 (NLT) *Jesus Teaches about Inner Purity***

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "All of you listen," he said, "and try to understand. <sup>15</sup>It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart."

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. <sup>18</sup>"Don't you understand either?" he asked. "Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? <sup>19</sup>Food doesn't go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer." (By saying this, he declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God's eyes.)

<sup>20</sup>And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

**What makes one unholy is what proceeds from the heart.**

**What manifests on the outside, all begins on the inside.**

## **Hosea 6:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup>I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

## **Isaiah 1:11-17 (NLT)**

<sup>11</sup>"What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?" says the Lord. "I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

<sup>12</sup>When you come to worship me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?

<sup>13</sup>Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and your special days for fasting—they are all sinful and false. I want no more of your pious meetings. <sup>14</sup>I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals. They are a burden to me. I cannot stand them! <sup>15</sup>When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims. <sup>16</sup>Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. Give up your evil ways. <sup>17</sup>Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows."

## **Jeremiah 7:22-23 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup>When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, it was not burnt offerings and sacrifices I wanted from them. <sup>23</sup>This is what I told them: 'Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!'

**God has only ever been after the hearts of His people.**

**It is the inner life; the heart of man that is the problem.**

**Jeremiah 17:9-10** (NLT) tell us...

<sup>9</sup> “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? <sup>10</sup> But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

**Romans 3:10-18** (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one.

<sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

<sup>13</sup> “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies.”

“Snake venom drips from their lips.” <sup>14</sup> “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

<sup>15</sup> “They rush to commit murder. <sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery always follow them.

<sup>17</sup> They don’t know where to find peace.” <sup>18</sup> “They have no fear of God at all.”

**Only Jesus Christ can bring the heart change every person needs.**

**John 3:3** (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

**Ezekiel 36:26** (NLT)

<sup>26</sup> “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.”

**It is God’s Holy Spirit living within us, that can reform the outflow of the human heart.**

**Romans 6:3-4** (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? <sup>4</sup> For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (NLT)

<sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!