

# Jesus Taught to Focus on the Heart

July 7, 2024

## Introduction:

Text: Mark 7:14-23

**Big Idea:** You can't successfully change a behavior until God has changed your heart. \_\_\_\_\_

**#1-Jesus proclaims the truth: The \_\_\_\_\_ of our true problem [defilement] comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ (14-15)**

- Jesus spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ (14)
- Jesus directed the crowd to \_\_\_\_\_ TO HIM & \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the inside of us

**#2- Jesus explains the truth: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem is we have a \_\_\_\_\_ that flows from the heart (17-23)**

- According to Matthew's account the disciples are very concerned about what the Pharisees are saying (Matthew 15:12-15)
- Peter asks for an explanation
- Jesus identifies 12 sources of corruption that come from the heart [6 actions and 6 attitudes]
  - **Evil Thoughts** – When the heart's desire begins to establish a plan
  - **Sexual Immorality** – Any sexual desire that rebels against God's standard
  - **Theft** –The desire to take something that belongs to someone else
  - **Murder** – The desire to play God by deciding who deserves the right to live
  - **Adultery** – The unashamed desire to violate the marriage covenant
  - **Coveting** – The desire to take something that belongs to another
  - **Wickedness** – The desire to cause harm to another
  - **Deceit** – The desire to deceive another for your own benefit
  - **Sensuality** – The desire to act upon every passion without restraint
  - **Envy** – The desire that is unwilling to be satisfied with what you have
  - **Slander** – The desire to speak of another in any manner that makes you feel good
  - **Pride** – The arrogant belief that your desires are justified
  - **Foolishness** – The senseless desire to ignore God's wisdom

**#3 The only solution: A \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ heart from God**

- Jesus came to save lost people (Mark 10:45)
- Salvation from spiritual defilement is God's means of rescuing humanity (Titus 3:5-7)
- The dynamics of salvation (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - speaks of new life, of regeneration. Jesus "saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Regeneration is

God's work of re-creation. "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor. 5:17).\*

- \_\_\_\_\_ - speaks of being delivered from sin and set apart for God. To be sanctified is to be made holy inwardly and to be able, in the Spirit's power, to live a righteous life outwardly. Before a person is saved he has no holy nature and no capacity for holy living. But in Christ we are given a new nature and can live out the new kind of life. Sin's total domination is broken and is replaced by a life of holiness.\*
- \_\_\_\_\_ - speaks of new standing before God. In Christ we are clothed in His righteousness and God now sees in us His Son's righteousness instead of our sin. Christ's righteousness is credited to our account (Rom. 4:22–25).\*

\* MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1984). 1 Corinthians (pp. 143–144). Chicago: Moody Press.

#### Truth in Action:

1. **Jesus taught that the most dangerous evil is not outside of us but inside of us. EXAMINE YOUR OWN HEART.**
2. **Attempting to blame external influences will never remedy the issues of your heart. ASK GOD TO MAKE YOU BRAND NEW BY GIVING YOU A NEW HEART.**

#### CONNECT CARD NEXT STEP:

#1- Keep an eye on your own heart.

#2-How we can help you and pray for you.

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

#### Table Talk

- Why do people sin? Is it nurture or nature? Are people born sinners? What does Jesus teach in this passage?
- The Bible tells us that through faith in Jesus and the receiving of his life, we receive a new heart. Why do we need a new heart? How is a new heart better than just being forgiven?

(A clarifying thought: Ceremonially unclean hands or foods do not affect your heart. It's not what you put in your body, but what comes out of your heart that matters to God. And Jesus lists the many evils that "come from inside and make a man unclean.")

- As it was with the Pharisees, are you focused more on your body than on your heart? Which do you care for more diligently?
- Parents: Help your children to understand that they need Jesus to give them a new heart. Sometimes when we talk to children about salvation we use the language of "asking Jesus into your heart." But this can fail to show the truth that Jesus gives us a brand new heart. Instead we might say "do you want Jesus to give you a new heart."