

Who Do You Say I Am? The Gospel of Mark 7:14-23

Pastor Larry March 20, 2019

THE REAL DEFILEMENT (Mark 7:14-23)

7:14-23 MSG Jesus called the crowd together again and said, “Listen now, all of you—take this to heart. It’s not what you swallow that pollutes your life; it’s what you vomit—that’s the real pollution.”

When he was back home after being with the crowd, his disciples said, “We don’t get it. Put it in plain language.” Jesus said, “Are you being willfully stupid? Don’t you see that what you swallow can’t contaminate you? It doesn’t enter your heart but your stomach, works its way through the intestines, and is finally flushed.” (That took care of dietary quibbling; Jesus was saying that all foods are fit to eat.)

He went on: “It’s what comes out of a person that pollutes: obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness—all these are vomit from the heart. There is the source of your pollution.”

Although it may not seem so now, this passage, when it was first spoken, was probably the most 1 REVOLUTIONARY passage in the New Testament. Jesus has been arguing with the legal experts about different aspects of the 2 TRADITIONAL law. He has shown the irrelevance of the elaborate hand washings. He has shown how rigid adherence to the traditional law can actually mean 3 DISOBEDIENCE to the law of God.

At that time the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, was determined to root out the 4 JEWISH faith. One of the things he demanded was that the Jews should eat pork, swine's flesh but they died in their hundreds rather than do so.

It is in face of this that Jesus made his revolutionary statement that nothing that goes into a man can make him unclean. He was 5 WIPING out in one stroke the laws for which Jews had suffered and died. No wonder the disciples were amazed.

Jesus was saying that things cannot be either unclean or clean in any real 6 RELIGIOUS sense of the term. Only persons can be really defiled; and what defiles a person is his own actions, which are the product of his own heart.

What are the things Jesus lists as coming from the heart and making a man 7 UNCLEAN?

All of these evils come from inside and defile a person.

8 Evil Designs

9 Fornications

10 Adultery

11 Thefts

12 Murders

13 Covetous Deeds

14 Evil Deeds

15 Guile

16 Wickedness

17 Envy

18 Pride

19 Folly