

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Purity of Heart

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

March 31, 2019



How do we develop purity of heart?

Mark 7:1-5 (NLT) One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. ² They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. ³ (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. ⁴ Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, “Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony.”

“So the washing and efforts to stay clean and free from dirt and disease that were used by religious people in Jesus's day were a kind of visual aid that enabled them to recognize that they were spiritually and morally unclean and couldn't enter the presence of God unless there was some kind of spiritual purification.” Tim Keller

- **The cleanliness laws made it apparent that you can't be in the presence of God unless you are made spiritually and morally clean.**

Mark 7:6-13 Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’ ⁸ For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition.” ⁹ Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition. ¹⁰ For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: ‘Honour your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ ¹² In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. ¹³ And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”

Mark 7:14-23 Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “All of you listen,” he said, “and try to understand. ¹⁵ It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.” ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ “Don't you understand either?” he asked. “Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? ¹⁹ 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.) ²⁰ And then he added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. ²¹ For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. ²³ All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

- **According to Jesus in our natural state we are unfit for the presence of God.**

Romans 3:23

- **Purity is not about “outside-in cleansing” but “inside-out cleansing.”**

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

Big Idea: Trust in Jesus to cleanse your heart and make you pure.

So how do we apply this today?

Ezekiel 36:22-27 (NLT) “Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. ²³ I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign Lord, then the nations will know that I am the Lord. ²⁴ For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land. ²⁵ “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

- **Receive purity of heart today by trusting in Jesus Christ.**
- **Pursue purity in every aspect of your life by surrendering to Jesus Christ.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



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Purity of Heart

#11 of 21 — March 31, 2019

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?

- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?

- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) What comes to mind when you think of purity? What does it mean to be pure in heart?

4) Read Mark 7:1-5. What rituals were the Pharisees advocating and why did these traditions matter to them? What is the purpose of ceremonial laws found in the Old Testament and how is this different from what the Pharisees taught?

5) Read Mark 7:6-13. How does Jesus describe these religious leaders? Why is He so hard on them? In what ways do we nullify the Word of God through our habits and traditions? In what ways do we elevate our thoughts over the principles of God? What does that reveal about our hearts?

6) Read Mark 7:14-23. According to Jesus how are we made impure? What implications does this have for us as we approach God? Review the list in v. 21-23 and evaluate what actions you have seen coming from your heart in the past while. Reflect on Romans 3:23.

7) Read Zechariah 3:1-9 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How do these Scriptures provide the solution for our purity problem?

8) How is trusting in the work of Jesus Christ an “inside-out cleansing” for our hearts? Why is this cleansing by grace through faith?

9) Read Ezekial 36:22-27. How does this passage illustrate the process of trusting Christ as Saviour and surrendering to His loving leadership as King? What is God's part in this and what is our part?

10) In what ways do you need to trust God and surrender to His ways today?



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