

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 12 –

What Defiles You?

All Scriptures use the English Standard Version (ESV) unless indicated otherwise

- Continuation from Matthew 15:1–9.
- Matthew 15 and Mark 7 are parallel passages
- Jesus confronted the Pharisees for elevating tradition above God’s Word.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- All of your issues spring from your heart.

Psalm 139:23-24 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Matthew 15:10-11 10 And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

- He wants to teach the crowd.
- Protect them from bad doctrine.
- Hear and understand – Matthew 13 repeats this concern.
- A cultural preference VS. biblical truth
- Washing hands has biblical roots but they took it too far.
- He is not saying external purity doesn't matter.
- Mark 7 says he is declaring all foods clean here.
- Jesus is not saying the old law is bad.
- He's saying that ritual purity was never the final measure of moral purity.

- Ritual Purity – It focuses on external ceremonies.
- Moral purity is about the heart. It focuses on character, and obedience to God.

Matthew 15:12 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

- Jesus and the Gospel are offensive

Matthew 15:13-14 13 He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

- Wheat and the weeds parable connection
- Oswald Chambers “It is possible to know all about doctrine and still not know Jesus. A person’s soul is in grave danger when the knowledge of doctrine surpasses Jesus, avoiding intimate touch with him.”

Matthew 15:15-17 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” 16 And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?”

- Peter is honest.
- Better than false confidence.

Matthew 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

- The mouth reveals what already exists internally.
- Your mouth is exposing your heart.
- Cleansing is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 15:19-20 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

- Several of these correspond directly to commandments: You shall not murder. You shall

not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness.

- Sexual immorality – porneia.
- All sexual activity outside of marriage.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.