

Sermon Discussion Questions | **Series:** Matthew Part 4: Week 5

Date: November 6 & 8, 2026 I **Passage:** Matthew 14:34-15:20

BIG IDEA: True Defilement is a Matter of the Heart

Icebreaker: Have you ever seen a tradition, personal preference, or unwritten rule take precedence over what God's Word actually says? What happened?

Read Matthew 14:34-15:20 together.

Observe: What does the Scripture say?

Q1: In Matthew 14:34-36, how do the people in Gennesaret respond when they recognize Jesus? What does their response reveal about their view of Him?

Q2: In Matthew 15:3-9, how does Jesus expose the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and scribes? What contrast does He make between their traditions and God's commands?

Understand: What does it mean?

Q3: In verses 8-9, Jesus says the people honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. How can we appear religious on the outside while being far from God on the inside?

Q4: Jesus teaches that what comes out of a person is what defiles them. What does this teach us about the source of sin and the true condition of our hearts?

Q5: Why is it so important that our traditions, opinions, and convictions are always subject to the authority of God's Word? What are some ways we can elevate human ideas above Scripture?

Respond: How should we live?

Q6: Are there areas of your life where you are more concerned about how other Christians perceive you than what is actually happening in your heart?

Q7: What do your words, attitudes, and reactions from the past week reveal about what's happening in your heart? What is one area of your life where you need Jesus to bring about genuine change?

Close by praying together, asking God to help you confess, repent, and trust in the cleansing power of Christ to change you!