

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 3-6-24
Matthew Chapter 15 Part 4
Jesus identifies what defiles a person.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Jesus identified how following tradition instead of truth impacts our worship of Him.
- 2) Jesus said that it is possible to draw nigh to God with our mouths, honor Him with our lips and yet the heart still far from God.
- 3) Tradition has landed the Pharisees in a works-based religion that will end in separation from God for eternity.
- 4) Jesus was very direct and left no room for doubt with the Pharisees and scribes in verse 9.
- 5) Do you see the danger in these verses of not teaching correct doctrine?
- 6) What happened when these who followed tradition instead of truth died?

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Verse 9 brings to a close a paragraph, a complete thought that Jesus has presented concerning the scribes and Pharisees.
- 2) Now we get to hear what Jesus teaches the multitude.

2. Jesus turns and teaches the multitude: Matthew 15:10-11

a. Jesus called them together:

- 1) “hear” – hearken, give audience.
- 2) “understand” – where what is understood is evident from the preceding context.

b. Here is the principle: Matthew 15:11

- 1) **“Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.”**
 - a) A one-line sermon.
 - b) Jesus offered no explanation here to the multitude.
 - c) What are some things that can come out of the mouth?

3. The disciples are concerned the Pharisees were offended: Matthew 15:12

a. Should they be concerned?

- 1) What was the offense?
- 2) What should Jesus now do?
- 3) What does truth do?
- 4) As a believer, we are –

b. Jesus looks to eternity while the disciples see the present: Matthew 15:13

- 1) Plants, vines, seeds are often used by Jesus to communicate truth.
- 2) In the context of this passage, Jesus was confronting false doctrine.
- 3) Jesus has exposed false doctrine and is rooting it out through truth and planting correct doctrine in the hearts and minds of those listening.
- 4) Why? What is Jesus focused on here?

c. Jesus said, “Let them alone...” Matthew 15:14

- 1) They don't want to listen, so let them alone.
- 2) Why? Jesus said that they are “**blind leaders**”.
- 3) They are leading people to the ditch.

4. Coming full circle back to the heart: Matthew 15:15-20

a. Peter asks Jesus to explain the parable. Matthew 15:15

b. Jesus responds to Peter:

- 1) “**without understanding**” –
- 2) Verse 17 – this makes sense to us.
- 3) Verse 18 – What comes from our mouth is a reflection of what has made it to and affected the heart.
 - a) “**heart**” – “**kardia**” – the center and seat of spiritual life.

c. Some thoughts to keep in mind about the heart:

- 1) The heart and the intellect are connected:
 - a) **Matthew 13:15** –
 - b) **Proverbs 23:7** –
 - c) **Luke 1:66** –
 - d) **Luke 2:19** –

5. Tonight's Take Away:

- a. Think about this as it relates to your walk with the Lord.