

Encounter Church
Sunday December 31, 2023

What's on the Inside

Share story from Bay Landing Cabin 11A. Use illustration

God is more concerned about what's on the inside than He is the outside!

This sent me on a journey through the scriptures.

SCRIPTURES LIKE:

Matthew 23:25-28- "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

You need to have more than clean dishes, you need to have a clean heart!

We are careful to clean what people see, without giving much attention to what only God can see!

That's a good sign we're more concerned about what people think than what God thinks!

God told Samuel the prophet that "man looks on the outward appearance while God looks on the heart!

Matthew 12:33-37- "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

The fruit defines the tree!

What has been stored in your heart will be heard in the overflow of your words!
What's in your heart is revealed by your fruit and your words!

Jeremiah 17:9-10- “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

My response: OH GOD I NEED YOU!

Psalms 139:23-24- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”

Father point out anything in me that is hidden, and if I'm on the path of pain lead me on the path that brings me back to you!

GOD NEWS: ***God will give you a new heart!***

Ezekiel 36:25-27- “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. 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. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”

WHEN GOD GIVES ME A NEW HEART HOW CAN I KEEP IT CLEAN?

1. The blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin.

1 John 1:7- “But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

Hebrews 13:12- “It's the same with Jesus. He was crucified outside the city gates—that is where he poured out the sacrificial blood that was brought to God's altar to cleanse his people.”

2. Confess your sins.

1 John 1:9- “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

3. Make a Clean Break

2 Corinthians 7:1- “Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.”

Make a clean break from everything and everyone that defiles or distracts me.

Let us make our whole lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God!

Remove anything from my life that contaminates my body or spirit!

GRACE EMPOWERS US TO DO WHAT PLEASE GOD!

Don't link up with those who will pollute you!!! You're the temple of God!

1 John 3:3- "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

2 Timothy 2:21- Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things [which are dishonorable—disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for a special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."

MAKE A CLEAN BREAK, CLEANSE YOURSELF!

4. Immerse Yourself in the Bible

Ephesians 5:25-26- "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"

BIBLE READING PLAN ON THE ENCOUNTER APP.

Don't just read the Bible, let the Bible read you!

5. Stay Full of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Holy Spirit come rest on us!

CONCLUSION: My prayer: Holy Spirit search me. Holy Spirit show me. Holy Spirit fill me.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you!