

Daily Bible Study

“Disinfected Hands & Defiled Hearts”~Part-2

Mark 7:1-23

August 1 - 7, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – We continue this week with the 2nd part of our study “Disinfected Hands & Defiled Hearts” from **Mark 7:1-23**. The issue that arose which we are currently working through from last time has to do with whether or not *the commandment of God* or *the tradition of men* is to be the supreme rule for governing life. The Pharisees and scribes were accusing Jesus again of another infraction of THEIR law and Christ points out their hypocrisy and their sin of canceling out as it were God’s Word (*making the Word of God of no effect through your traditions...*) and elevating their traditions and extra rules above the commands of God. Jesus will now go on and illustrate to them their hypocrisy concerning the 5th commandment and then He will make it clear to all *who have ears to hear* that real defilement comes from within mans evil heart and not from the outside. May we see that it is Jesus alone who is the prescription for healing the sin problem of mankind and He alone is the One who can cleanse defiled hearts. Read the text: **Mark 7:1-23** “*Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?” He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. ‘For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.’ He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.” When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!” When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?” And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles*

a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, Please teach and feed me from Your Word this week.

TUESDAY – **Mark 7:14-16** “When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!” After Jesus had responded to the Pharisees and scribes concerning their hypocrisy and sin in **verses 1-13**, He now moves on to address *all the multitude*. It appears that Jesus had been speaking to the crowds when this delegation of Pharisees and scribes came to question Him. After He had fielded their questions and dealt with them He now appears to call the crowd back around Him to hear what He is about to say. The importance of His words is stressed by the fact He says, *Hear Me, everyone, and understand*. In saying this Jesus reminds the people of several Old Testament admonitions which speak this very same language (**Psalms 49:1, 50:7, 81:8**). Now making emphasis that what is about to be said is very important Jesus begins to address the crowd who can be so easily sidetracked, tricked, and confused by teaching that strays from the truth of God’s Word. Jesus makes a very simple statement that directly challenges the assumptions made by the Pharisees concerning what makes a person defiled. He says, *There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man*. The Pharisees and scribes had suggested that a person is defiled from the outside inward and Jesus says that the very opposite of this is actually the truth. Jesus is saying that it is not physical things such as food which enter a person and make him unclean and defiled but rather it is the moral and spiritual issues of the sinful heart which come out from within and evidence true defilement. The sin which pours forth from us reveals that we are unclean rather than renders us unclean. William Barclay: “Although it may not seem so now, this passage, when it was first spoken, was well-nigh the most revolutionary passage in the New Testament.” Read and meditate on **Proverbs 4:20-23**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me guard my heart & mind with diligence. Help me fill them with Your truth like a reservoir. I sin because I’m a sinner but thanks for forgiving me in Christ.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 7:17-19 “When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?” After addressing the multitude we are told that Jesus entered a house away from the crowd and there He is asked another question but this time from *His disciples*. Matthew informs us it was Peter as the spokesman who asked, “*Explain this parable to us*”. Jesus responds with a question which seems to reprimand these men for being slow in thinking and keeping with Him in His teaching. It is as if Jesus says He can understand the crowd being slow to follow but, *Do you not perceive...* We are reminded here of the diligence necessary for us to study, meditate, and pray over God’s Word very carefully and with the right attitude in order to understand and learn. Read these verses which highlight this need: **Isaiah 28:9-13**, **1 Corinthians 3:2**, and **Hebrews 5:11**. Jesus then explains that man’s heart is not defiled by eating of physical food, no matter if its ceremonially unclean or not *because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated*. Mark then adds the phrase, *thus purifying all foods*. This statement seems best understood as being given in hindsight by Mark (most likely with Peter’s help) to explain that Jesus was declaring the dietary restrictions to be over and all foods in the vernacular, “kosher” (**Acts 10:9-15**).

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you better listen, learn, and understand His Word.

THURSDAY – Mark 7:20-21 “And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders...” Jesus here repeats Himself and then goes on to elaborate on this truth which He has been saying. He begins to describe this “well” and “source”, mankind’s *heart* as the real culprit of his defilement. We saw previously that we sin because we are sinners, not that we are sinners because we sin. It is the fallen and corrupt heart of man that is the problem source that pumps out evil deeds. **Spurgeon** comments, “The source from which these rivers of pollution proceed is the natural heart of man. Sin is not a splash of mud upon man’s exterior, it is a filth generated within himself.” Jesus said, *out of the heart of men, proceed...* Jesus now goes on to list many of these evidences of defilement which come forth from *the heart of men*. He starts with *evil thoughts*. Jesus begins here with what takes place in our thinking. Remember we have studied this fact of thinking leading to acting and doing in Wednesday Bible Study as well as the Bulletin insert a couple weeks back. **Spurgeon** says it like this, “Thoughts are the eggs of words and actions, and within the thoughts lie compacted and condensed all the villainy of actual transgressions. If men did but more carefully watch their thoughts, they would not so readily fall into evil habits; but men first indulge the thought of evil, and then the imagination of evil; nor does the process stay there. Picturing it before their mind’s eye, they excite their own desires after it; these grow into a thirst and kindle into a passion”. Jesus then proceeds to speak of sexual sins (moicheia-adultery, porneia-illicit sexual sin) that cover married and unmarried, in other words everybody. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:3**. Then

murders...literally, “slaughter”, killing innocent people. In our society, this includes murdering them in the womb.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, as we are reminded of our sinful hearts and deeds from Scripture, remind us also of Jesus death for us and His payment on our behalf which covers all our sin.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 7:22-23** “...thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man”. This “list” of sin continues and as Spurgeon once commented concerning this text, “...few have been able to escape the horrible exposition.” In fairness, Spurgeon was commenting about a particular week’s sermon when He says “few”. Some weeks we may experience more victory than others but as an overall factual principle of Scripture, No One has ever in any week of man’s existence since the fall been able to escape this exposition (**Psalms 5:9, Romans 3:9-20**). *Thefts* – (stealing) Paul warned slaves who were believers in Christ to mortify this sin (**Titus 2:9-10**). *Covetousness* – (greedy desire to have more) Paul said this was the particular Law of God that got his attention in **Romans 7** when he states, “*For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*” *Wickedness* – (iniquity, malice) This speaks of an active desire to do wrong toward others and love it (**Proverbs 6:18**). *Deceit* – (craft, guile) Matthew has here *false witness* which points to the sin being described as a deception and distortion of the truth. *Lewdness* – (unbridled lust an excess) A lack of self control to give into perverse impulses. *an evil eye* – This phrase most likely refers to envy, jealousy, an injurious stare or a sinister eye. The English word envy has its origin in the Latin invideo which speaks of “looking against”. *Blasphemy* – (slander, injurious speech) Not only do evil looks come from within the heart but also evil words of detraction against both God and man. *Pride* – (haughtiness, arrogance) This is to esteem oneself as better or greater than others which is the sin common to the fallen human heart. Even Jesus disciples had to fight this sin as seen in arguing who would be the greatest (**Luke 9:46-48**). *Foolishness* – (folly, senselessness, thoughtlessness, recklessness) **Ecclesiastes 7:25** speaks of the “evil of folly”. We can only really be changed and transformed before God from the *inside out*. We need to pray for this and pay more attention to our defiled hearts than to our “unwashed hands”.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, may my prayer be as David’s: “Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a steadfast (morally steadfast - established right) spirit within me” (**Psalms 51:10**).*