

THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM: A WICKED HEART

Sunday, March 26, 2023 -- GOSPEL OF MARK series -- Msg 29 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

MARK 7:14-23

English Standard Version (ESV)

14 And he [JESUS] called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." **17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. **18** And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20** And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. **21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

BACKGROUND/REVIEW:

- 1) Jesus feeds the multitude, sends His disciples into a storm, shows His power over all things, goes on a very high profile/public _____ in the Galilee area. Mark chapters 6-7
- 2) Pharisees and scribes come from Jerusalem to confront Jesus about the fact that His disciples do not observe the _____ of the Jewish leaders regarding handwashing before meals. 7:1-13
- 3) Jesus slams the accusations of the religious leaders for elevating their traditions over the Word of God. And then He circles back on the massive issue of the condition of one's _____ before God.

THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS OUR WICKED HEARTS:

- The wrong thinking of Jesus's day: the defilement is _____. (Mark 7:1-23)
- The wrong thinking of our day: people are basically good but their _____ is the problem.
- Humans consistently underestimate the catastrophic _____ of the Fall.
- Without new life in Christ, we are spiritually _____ and totally _____ before God.

JEREMIAH 17:9-10

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
10 I the LORD search the heart, I test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his deeds.

ROMANS 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

PSALM 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

14 And he [JESUS] called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." **17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. **18** And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20** And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. **21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

EPHESIANS 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

EPHESIANS 4:17-19

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18** **They are darkened** in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

1) JESUS makes an earth-shattering statement in verse 15 that He explains further in verses 18-19.

- He states that moral corruption does not come from the _____. It is already _____!
- This means external rituals and religious ceremonies cannot bring _____ cleansing.
- Yes, Jesus obliterates the dietary laws of Judaism (Lev. 11) because HE replaces/ _____ them.
- The ceremonial law of clean and unclean foods and procedures for purification was given to reveal the _____ of God and the _____ of man.
- The Old Testament law never suggested that adherence to these laws could _____ anyone.
 - Only faith in _____ could save an Old Testament believer.
 - The ceremonial law pointed them to God's salvation through His messiah/_____.

2) JESUS is laying the foundation for us to see that salvation can never _____.

3) JESUS is revealing that HE is the One who gives His people a _____.

EZEKIEL 26:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

JEREMIAH 31:33

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

HEBREWS 8:10

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.*

FOR OUR HEARTS THIS MORNING...

- 1) Let us recognize that Jesus is declaring the fact that we are _____ **from within.**
- 2) Let us recognize that Jesus is destroying the idea that we can _____ **our own impurity.**
- 3) Let us see that CHRIST ALONE came to give us a _____ of faith and purity --
HE ALONE is the _____ of our salvation.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

*1 **And you were dead** in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- 4) Let us see that true Christians are called to walk in a _____ **manner** with new life, attitude, actions and heart in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 4:17-24

*17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 **But that is not the way you learned Christ!**— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

No wonder David asked God to _____ in Him a clean heart and _____ in Him a right spirit.

PSALM 51:10 & 12

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.