

MATTERS OF THE HEART (Mark 7:14-23)

August 25, 2024

TEXT—Mark 7:14-23

MAIN IDEA—Moral corruption originates from within; therefore, the human heart must be changed for a person to have a right relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSES—Jer. 17:9-10 NKJV

A DECLARATION OF TRUTH (Mark 7:14-16)—Having addressed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders' empty worship, Jesus summons a crowd to state a profound truth about the source of impurity. Simply put, impurity does not start from outside in, but from the inside out.

*Spiritually speaking, inner pollution or sin doesn't come to us from outside in, it comes out of us from the inside out (i.e. out of the heart and will of man).

Amos 5:21-24

AN EXPLANATION OF TRUTH (Mark 7:17-23)—After stating the truth about human defilement through a parable, the disciples asked for an explanation to better understand the LORD's statement. The LORD responded by giving the disciples a thorough description of the wicked condition of every human heart, revealing our urgent and deep need for salvation and continual sanctification through Christ.

Acts 10:13-16

***SIX EVIL ACTIONS that flow from an evil heart (V20-22)—**Jesus describes the doctrine of human depravity or the radical corruption of man by describing the core of our being. Though mankind is not as corrupt as he possibly can be, every part of our being (inner thoughts, desires, our will) is stained by sin.

Rom. 3:10-18; Gen. 6:5

>**fornications** (*porneia*) refer to all types of sexual sins.

>**thefts** (*klope*) refer to any type of stealing.

>**murders** (*phonos*) mean the illicit taking of another person's life.

>**adulteries** (*moicheia*) mean sexual sins that violate the covenant of marriage.

>**deeds of coveting** (*pleonexia*) refer to behaviors motivated by greed.
>**wickedness** (*poneria*) generally refers to any other sins that violate God's law and will. **Rom. 13:9**

SIX EVIL ATTITUDES that flow from an evil heart (V22b-23)

>**deceit** (*dolos*) meaning craftiness, lying, and deception.
>**sensuality** (*aselgeia*) refers to the out-of-control lust of a dirty mind.
>**envy** (*poneros/ ophthalmos*) means having an 'evil eye' that is full of jealousy and hatred.
>**slander** (*blasphemia*) refers to abusive and hurtful speech towards others.
>**pride** (*huperephania*) refers to feelings of superiority, arrogance, and self-promotion.
>**foolishness** (*aphrosune*) summarizes all types of folly and senselessness.

1 Jn. 3:7-10

Rom. 5:8; 1 Tim. 1:15-16

This text calls us to 3 actions:

***Examine our hearts: 2 Cor. 13:5 Do these evil actions & attitudes Jesus stated define how you live? Are you struggling with any of these actions or attitudes?**

***Let Christ cleanse our hearts. Choose to live a lifestyle of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus (Acts. 3:19-20; Gal. 2:20).**

***Guard your heart. Prov. 4:23-27**