

The Heart of Being Clean

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, February 17, 2019; Steve Thiel

Theme – Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who has all authority to proclaim the gospel and cleanse us from our sin. Therefore, He came to teach us that cleanliness is not a matter of rules and regulations, but a matter of the heart. And faith in Christ is the only way to be cleansed.

I. Conflict Over Unclean Hands – Read Mark 7:1-13

- A. What issue did the Pharisees and scribes have with Jesus' disciples in these verses? What do we need to understand about the tradition of the elders, the Mishnah, for this to make sense to us?
- B. How does Jesus respond to the religious leaders' question? List the two issues that He has with the Pharisees and the scribes. How do you think they are connected?
- C. How does the quote from Isaiah 29:13 and the illustration of Corban highlight Jesus' concern?
- D. In what areas of your life do you tend to be a hypocrite, where you honor God with your words but your heart is far from Him? In what areas of your life do you tend to be legalistic?

II. Clarification Of Unclean Hearts – Read Mark 7:14-23

- A. Why does Jesus speak publicly in parables and then privately explain things to His disciples?
- B. If you were to summarize Jesus' teaching in verses 17-23, what is He trying to say?
- C. How are you prone to blame your problems on the things that are outside of you? What does that look like? What are signs in your life that you are not taking ownership for your sin?
- D. What are some steps that you can take to start identifying "heart issues" in your life?

III. Confirmation With Unclean People – Read Mark 7:24-37

- A. What stands out to you in Jesus' interaction with the Syrophenician woman? How about the deaf man? In what ways does Jesus meet them individually where they're at in life?
- B. What clarity does the Syrophenician woman demonstrate in her response to Jesus? How would you like to grow in having that kind of attitude and orientation toward God?
- C. The healed blind man and the entire crowd around him are overjoyed with Jesus and all the things that He does well? How are you doing at finding your complete satisfaction in Christ?
- D. What are some steps you can take to grow in being overwhelmed by God's grace in your life?