

10-16-22 Facilitator – Traditions and the Heart, Mark 7:1-23, Tim Rice

1. **Launchers: Have you experienced a misdiagnosis? What is the story?**

2. **Worship God for His Transforming Power to Save even US!**

Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Pray for His power of renewal and transformation built upon the security that only Jesus can give us by faith. (Pray with Us. #5)

Titus 2:13-14 & 3:3-7 [reading just like this:] Titus 2:13 *Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ... 14 gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works...* 3:3 *we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

3. **Sermon Reflection: External Traditions & the Heart, Mark 7:1-23**

A DISTORTED MISDIAGNOSIS

- What is not the problem? It wasn't circumstances
- Who have you been inclined to measure by externals *and condemn*?
- Are you defined by outside-in traditions? Or inside-out transformation?

THE REAL & RADICAL PROBLEM

- What actually IS the problem?
- Who have you been inclined to measure by externals *and condemn*?
- Are you defined by outside-in traditions? Or inside-out transformation?

A GRACIOUS & ETERNAL REMEDY

- And how does Jesus answer this problem? Answer – *Forgiveness and Transformation*
- *How can God solve this?*

- *Answer:*

Jesus absorbs our defilement in His death, being trustworthy where we're not.

And He renews our selfish hearts by His indwelling Spirit.

At the core, we trust Jesus to change what we cannot.

We cannot cleanse ourselves, yet He has by His atonement; we cannot renew ourselves, yet He does by His Spirit.

So now in Christ, all we do is sourced internally from Him. (Titus 1 again)

And now in His Grace, we can treat others with mercy

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray With Us...**

1. Worship the LORD for His absolute holiness and purity. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that there is no impurity in Him and that He is gracious to cleanse everyone who trusts in Jesus.
2. How have you lived as if you do not actually have a heart problem, or as if you don't need to be cleansed? Confess your guilt and helplessness to Jesus, asking Him to change what you cannot change.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to call us *what we are* and then **meet us where we are** to save our lives. Thank Him for taking our defilement upon Himself (by His death) and giving us His purity (by His Spirit).
4. Who do you know that sizes up other people as defiled or unworthy (and it might be you)? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see first *their own defilement and corruption of heart*, and His power and Grace to save people like us.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Pray for His power of renewal and transformation built upon the security that only Jesus can give us by faith.

5. **Mission: Christians, having received mercy, are on mission to show mercy, offer mercy, and give mercy.**

- Who have you misdiagnosed?
- Who have you discarded because of your "traditions"?
- Who do you need to re-diagnose as a person in need of your love and friendship rather than your judgement and condemnation?