

Matthew 15:10-20: And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

Intro: This week, Jesus finishes what He started last week. Last week, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees & scribes, warning them that they were using their traditions to break God's commandments & their worship was vain. There's a way to have an appearance of zeal for God that is not according to God's Word. There is a way to perform all kinds of external acts of worship: prayer, preaching, giving money, singing, but have a heart that is far from God. **Verses 7-9:** You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." This week, Jesus finishes this warning & explains His rebuke more fully to His disciples.

- **God cares about the heart: 1 Samuel 16:7:** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

- **1 Samuel 13:14:** The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart . . .

- **Proverbs 31:30:** Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

- **Isaiah 53:2:** He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

1. What Comes Out Of Our Mouths Defiles Us

Matthew 15:10-11: And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

a. With this statement, Jesus is responding to the Pharisees' and scribes' accusation: Matthew 15:1-2: Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat."

b. What does it mean to be defiled? It means to be unclean in a sinful way or unholy. **Adj. form: Revelation 21:27:** But nothing unclean will ever enter it [the heavenly city in the new heavens and new earth], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- **Hebrews 7:26:** For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens

c. It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person but what comes out of the mouth defiles a person: What you eat, generally speaking (yes you can eat poorly, eat too much, or eat poison to kill yourself and that defiles you – that's sin!), but what you eat, generally speaking does not defile you. Eating with unwashed hands doesn't defile you. But what comes out of your mouth defiles you. Words matter to God because your words come from your heart and show what's in your heart.

Matthew 12:34-37: You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, & the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶ I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, & by your words you will be condemned."

d. Jesus declares all foods clean: Mark 7:19: Thus he declared all foods clean.

O. T. Food Laws: Lev 11:7-8: & the pig, because it parts the hoof & is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, & you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you

These laws taught God's people about His holiness & their sinfulness & they separated God's people from the surrounding nations – the Jews were to be a holy nation set apart for God. For the Jews in the O. T., these food laws were a ceremonial & a moral category: they were not to eat unclean animals because God told them not to & to disobey God would be to sin. But in our passage, we see God Himself (Jesus) changing these food laws because He Himself is the fulfillment of these laws – He would truly make His people clean by His blood and righteousness. You've heard: “You are what you eat” – Jesus says NOT! See also Peter's vision (Acts 10). These laws were given at a specific time to a specific people for a specific purpose: They were given to O. T. Israel to prepare a people, culture, and language to receive the Messiah of God – God in the flesh – Jesus Christ! Everything points to Christ! And He fulfills all the law and the prophets, and He's the only One Who can make us clean and undefiled from the inside out! He alone can cleanse our hearts and change our hearts!

What comes into us from the outside can't make us sin. What comes into us from outside is not our main problem!

Application for us: Your environment is not the cause of your sin. Your upbringing is not the cause of your sin. Your parents' failures are not the cause of your sin. Your lack of education is not the cause of your sin. The way your boss, your husband, your wife, your children, your brothers or sisters get on your nerves is not the cause of your sin. The other drivers on the road are not the cause of your road rage. If you want to see the cause of your sin, look in the mirror. You are the man! You are the woman! And so am I!

- **G. K. Chesterton story:** A newspaper asked several authors this question: "What's wrong with the world?" Chesterton's response was the shortest: “Dear Sirs, I am. Sincerely yours, G.K. Chesterton”

- **DeYoung:** That person just pushes my buttons. The problem is not mainly with the person, it's with your buttons!

- **Amy Carmichael:** If a sudden jar can cause me to speak an impatient, unloving word, then I know nothing of Calvary love. For a cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted.

You can't fix your sin by merely changing outward behavior! The problem is a heart problem & our sin problem is deeper than mere external “does” & “don'ts.” It's a problem of the heart! Mere outward religious activity will not change your heart. You can't do enough good works to make your heart clean! Mere outward parenting won't change your children's hearts. The book: *Shepherding a Child's Heart*: Parents do you ask what's going on in your children's hearts when they sin? We cannot be cleansed from the outside in; we must be cleansed from the inside out because our hearts are the problem. Jesus alone can do this!

e. Peter had a hard time understanding that God was going to show mercy to the nations: Mark Dever: God would later give Peter a vision which would clarify that and make that point to him again. Because even though Mark says in that parenthesis that that's what Jesus meant by this statement, Peter did not seem to get it. Even after he preaches the sermon at Pentecost, he did not seem to get it. Even after the Samaritans were coming to Christ, he did not seem to get it. So when he's in Joppa, he has this vision in Acts chapter 10 three times the LORD lifts down this sheet full of unclean food, and what did He [God] say? - “Don't say that anything I made is unclean! Nothing I've created is unclean!” And why was he teaching him that? Because He wanted him to go to Cornelius' house . . . so that he would go and tell him the good news. So Peter would go from Joppa, where Jonah had fled from the worldwide mission – God was not missing a beat – He had Jonah there for a reason in Joppa. Jonah kinda did what [God] asked at Nineveh. But God was going to make sure this worldwide mission went on. And just to make a point, I think He had Peter at Joppa when He gave him that vision.

2. Jesus Explains The Rebellion Of The Blind, Offended Pharisees

Matthew 15:12-14: Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

a. The Pharisees were offended: It's not always bad when people are offended. False teachers should be offended. We offend with the truth in love because we love those the false teachers are leading astray!

b. The Pharisees were not planted by the heavenly Father: God sovereignly plants His own. The enemy also plants (Matt. 13, parable of wheat and tares). **Amos 9:15:** I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

c. Jesus warns His disciples to let the Pharisees alone: They are dangerous! Stay away! They lead to hell!

d. The Pharisees are blind guides leading the blind: Blind people needed help/guidance. But the guide must see!

3. Jesus Explains How Our Words Defile Us

Matthew 15:15-20: But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

a. Whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled: What goes in doesn't defile!

b. What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart: What does the Bible mean by our heart?: Our minds (thoughts), our emotions, our wills, our deepest longings and desires – our whole inner being – our heart is what defines us the most! Our heart is who we are at our very core – the center of who we are!

D. A. Carson: The point . . . is that what a man truly is affects what he says and does . . . what ultimately defiles a man is what he really is. Jesus is not spiritualizing the OT but insisting that true religion must deal with the nature of man and not with mere externals.

J. C. Ryle: The heart is the principal thing in the relation of husband & wife, of friend & friend, of parent & child. The heart must be the principal point to which we attend in all the relations between God & our souls. What is the first thing we need, in order to be Christians? A new heart. What is the sacrifice God asks us to bring to him? A broken & a contrite heart. What is the true circumcision . . . circumcision of the heart. What is genuine obedience? To obey from the heart. What is saving faith? To believe with the heart. Where ought Christ to dwell? To dwell in our hearts by faith. What is the chief request that Wisdom makes to every one? "My son, give me your heart."

Remember the Sermon on the Mount focused on the heart: Matthew 5:20: For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Lloyd-Jones: The rest of the Sermon On The Mount is an exposition, an explanation, of this verse . . . Some of the most vital questions that can be asked, then, are these. Do you know God? Do you love God? Can you say honestly that the biggest and the first thing in your life is to glorify Him and that you so want to do this that you do not care what it may cost you in any sense? Do you feel that this must come first, not that you may be better than somebody else, but that you may honor and glorify and love that God who, though you have sinned against Him grievously, has sent His only begotten Son to the cross on Calvary's hill to die for you, that you might be forgiven and that He might restore you unto Himself? Let every man examine himself.

c. Verse 19: For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander [blasphemy]:

Jesus taught that man's heart is evil: Matthew 7:11: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children

- **Murder & murderous thoughts: Matthew 5:21-22:** You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment
- **Adultery & adulterous, sexually immoral actions & thoughts: Matthew 5:27-28:** You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- **Theft & coveting: Ephesians 4:28:** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
- **Lying (false witness): Revelation 21:8:** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.
- **Blasphemy (slander): Exodus 20:7:** You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

d. Verse 20: These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.

All these come out of our hearts. **Calvin:** Our hearts are idol factories! Do you see these evils coming out of your own hearts? **GOSPEL!**

Spurgeon: We admire the wonderful kindness and matchless goodness of God, that he should ever have set his love upon such unworthy creatures. Paul is in admiration of it when he says, "his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins." A heart full of evil thoughts, and yet he loved me! A heart full of fornication and adultery, and yet he loved me! A heart full of murder, and yet he loved me! A heart that could bear false witness, a heart that could blaspheme, and yet he loved us. O brethren, if we could see ourselves as God saw us in [our sin], we should wonder how the eyes of Infinite Purity could have borne with us, how the heart of Infinite Love could have set itself upon us. You were not loved because of your goodness, you were not chosen because of anything in you that was lovely and amiable, you were loved because he would love you; you were chosen because he would do it for his name's sake.

"He saw you ruin'd in the fall, Yet loved you notwithstanding all;
He saved you from your lost estate, His loving-kindness, oh how great!"

And how great is His loving-kindness?! And how did He save sinners?! Infinite Purity, Infinite Love – The Lord Jesus Christ Himself – on that cross, was made the vilest of all evil thoughts; He was made the most wicked sexual immorality; He was counted as a thief; He was counted as a murderer and as an adulterer; He was made coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness!

2 Corinthians 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

He was made this sin, punished on the cross, died, and He rose up from the dead! And now, if you repent and believe in Him, you can be cleansed from all our defilement and get new hearts!

Ezekiel 36:25-27: I will sprinkle **clean water** on you, and you shall be clean from all your **uncleannesses**, and from all your idols I will **cleanse** you. 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. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

You must repent and believe and receive this new heart to enter heaven with God!

Revelation 21:22-27: And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the

Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day- and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But **nothing unclean [defiled]** will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Jesus' Heart Is Clean, Makes The Obscene Pristine, And Heals The Defiled Like You've Never Seen!

Things outside you can't defile
Lust won't stop when you walk that aisle
Flee to Christ Who passed the trial
On that cross He was made the vile
Though in His life was found no guile
Against Him God became hostile
He died and rose to reconcile
All who trust and don't revile
Then you'll receive God's loving smile!

What's in your heart is what you really are
Not what you eat like a protein bar
An evil heart your character will mar
Your sin from God has taken you afar
So trust in Christ the bright morning Star
He saves through His lasting cross-borne scar!
That's my King!

From your hearts come every evil
What you deserve from God is lethal
A finite death is not His equal
You deserve an eternal sequel
But God lay in the manger fetal
The infinite would bear the lethal
On that cross He became the feeble
To quench all charges against you legal
Then raised you up to die to evil!

His purest, clean heart is what you need
Against all defiling evil He'd succeed
So whether you've been smoking weed
Or your heart is full of greed
Or your whole life's been filled with all manner of every wicked deed
Your sin this Savior won't impede
For He's the evil crushing Seed
Who came to bleed
So that you would forevermore be freed
If you'll believe His creed
And to His Word take heed
He'll grant you salvation guaranteed!
That's my King! Do you know Him?!

Your surroundings don't make you sin
Not skin, gin, your annoying boss Gwyn
Your least favorite kin, or the new baby twin

“Don't push my buttons!” you cry to Glen
But the problem is your buttons within
Only through Jesus can change begin
So bow down to the King Whose mercies win!

Out of His heart flows only good
He always did all the good He should
Though He was often misunderstood
He never spoke the smallest falsehood
Against all sin He triumphantly withstood
He died upon the bloody cross-wood
And rose to do what we never could!
That's my King!

He saves sinners from every nationality
He saves from all sexual immorality
He saves you in your criminality
No matter what your illegality
He saves from all wicked rationality
No matter what your personality
On that cross He endured brutality
To become the Gospel's centrality
And saving the worst of sinners is His specialty
He saves you from eternal fatality
He'll change your whole mentality
Make you live under His principality
And grant you the most joyous immortality!

He heals His defiled creation
And grants new hearts through regeneration
That's your only hope for liberation
From fornication and the punishment of endless damnation
With a new heart He lays the foundation
For a life full of praise and adoration
To the God Who alone grants salvation!

Christ Cleans From All That Sins Defile
From Our Hearts These Come And Rile
Evil, Murder, Adultery Vile
Theft And Lying, Slander While
Our Sins Like Heaps Of Dung-Waste Pile
Jesus In Sinless, Perfect Style
Obeyed And Conquered Every Trial
Then Suffered Death Who They'd Revile

The God-Man Took God's Wrath Hostile
Then Rose Alive To Reconcile
Everything No Hint Of Guile
By Faith Alone We Gain God's Smile
Saves Both Jew And Each Gentile
Who Trusts In Him To Joy Compile
For He's Our Everything Worthwhile!