

What Comes Out

Matthew 15:1-20

Welcome back and here we go! Once again we find Jesus and the Bible challenging us to the core. We have moved now beyond the initial training of the disciples and their trial runs. They are building in their souls a frame of reference of what Jesus has done and can do through them, or in spite of them, or even absent of them.

In John 6 we see after the “I am the bread of life discourse” that many stopped following Jesus. We also see that after the disciples went out, Jesus’ renown was growing. Herod was hearing of Him and getting a guilt complex, while the religious Jews were getting angrier!

So they send a delegation from Jerusalem to Capernaum to observe, confront and even take advantage of the situation.

Matthew 15:1-20

1) What stands out to you?

I think the issue here is traditions. None of these ceremonies are found in the Bible. The Jewish Rabbis have the Torah, which is the Bible, and the Talmud --- oral traditions. In early centuries they would not make notations for fear they would be given more credibility than the scripture.

2) What is a hypocrite? Do you know any?

It is funny because this passage also brings to light another thing people do. They use beliefs to override scripture. “Hillel School of Rabbis”.

Corban - something dedicated to God’s use, set aside for spiritual activity and advance.
(time/money) Sorry --- a rabbit trail!

Legalism uses traditions of men to set aside God’s grace.

Hard hearts do that as well..... set aside God’s grace.

Mark 7:14-19

3) How does something enter the heart?

The heart is that part of the soul that contains:

- Frame of reference
- Memory center
- Vocabulary
- Viewpoint
- Norms & standards
- The heart initiates emotions.

Essence of the Soul

emotion | mentality | self-consciousness | volition | sin nature

Mark 7:20-23

All the things that follow evil thoughts are characterized as evil thoughts. Actions are preceded by thoughts, usually. We are going to focus on just a couple today for time's sake, and so I can show you mercy (LOL).

4) How can a believer have an evil eye?

We are all guilty of having skewed perception and then... an after thought life.

How do you see situations and people? Are you critical... judging, unforgiving? This also plays into pride ... arrogance ... lack of humility. In terms of forgiveness, everyone needs it just like you.

5) Is deceit common among people?

Deceit is usually done with the mouth.

Matthew 15:18-20

The synoptic, parallel Gospel, with more information.... Your mouth will tell on you.

Proverbs 6:2, 10:11-14, 12:14, 13:3

This is a hard lesson with a wonderful truth. We are able to decide how our hearts react. The lessons of our lives have trained us to cuss, to borrow pencils, to find solace in sex, to want *more* for security, to see just the negative parts of things, to stand up for self, to excuse shortcomings, to make silly mistakes again and again, to say GD, to want revenge, to gossip or malign, to speak about how I would never do that, to manipulate..... Should I go on? But Jesus is the solution to all this. How?

"Change my heart oh God, Make it ever true, Change my heart oh God, May I be like You..."

Psalms 51:10-13

"Create in me a clean heart..."

6) Lord, please remove _____ from me and help me change my heart.

Let's pray.