

It's Always About the Heart

Matthew 15:1-20

Context: A glimpse into the darkened hearts of the Pharisees ...

Matthew 14:34-36

Falling on the heels of Jesus' miraculous healing of the multitudes, Jesus reveals himself as the "I AM", with authority over the wind and waves and their very lives.

Remember that they were on their way to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Now arriving, we see Jesus doing what he has done so often before. Surrounded by the needs of many, the compassion of Jesus overflows into miraculous healings.

But **notice what the Pharisees see:**

Matthew 15:1-2

Disregarding the awesome display of God's greatness and generosity in the feeding of the thousands, and apparently indifferent to those whose lives were changed forever by Jesus' healing power, the Pharisees are instead _____ at a breach in _____. There's something wrong at the _____ of these men.

What do they mean by "tradition of the elders"?

What are they *really* asking Jesus?

Jesus' response and the exposure of their gross hypocrisy:

Matthew 15:3-9

Biblical *command* or Talmudic *tradition* – which honors God?

How did they "make void" God's command?

What is "vain worship"?

What is at issue here?

Jesus teaches on the heart:

Matthew 15:10-20

Some presuppositions for getting this parable right:

Jesus kept every Law _____.

Jesus is not _____ ("Anti-Law")

Jesus expects _____ from His followers.

Jesus was describing the future _____ of the Pharisees (And is not concerned about "_____ them).

The critical concern here centers around the word "_____".

To "defile" is to ...

Is the source of defilement primarily external or internal?

The ultimate issue is the state of our _____.

Springing from evil hearts are ...

Evil _____

Evil _____

Evil _____

What then is the remedy?

First and most – a _____ heart. (Ezek. 36:26-27; Jer. 24:7)

Then a _____ heart. (Psa. 51:10; James 4:8)

And finally, a _____ heart. (Prov. 4:23)

Remember:

Sin isn't primarily an _____. It's a _____.

Therefore ...

We must give our hearts something _____ than sin and something it _____ than sin.

Jesus has been teaching His disciples and us this:

