

The Gospel According to Mark

Don't Just Treat the Symptoms

Mark 7:14-23



7/10/2022 AM

Introduction:

I. THE EXPOSITION TO THE CROWD (vs. 14-16)

A. The Convocation (vs. 14)

“After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them...”

“ ‘Listen to Me, all of you, and understand...’ ”

B. The Clarification (vs. 15)

“there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him”

“but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.”

C. The Call to Hear (vs. 16)

“[If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.]”

II. THE EXPLANATION TO HIS DISCIPLES (vs. 17-19)

A. The Summons (vs. 17)

“When he had left the crowd and entered the house...”

“His disciples questioned Him about the parable.”

B. The Scolding (vs. 18-19a)

“And He said to them, ‘Are you so lacking in understanding also?’ ”

“ ‘Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?’ ”

ESV: “since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled”

KJV: “because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught”

LEB: “for it does not enter into his heart but into his stomach, and goes out into the latrine”

C. The Summary (vs. 19b)

“(Thus He declared all foods clean.)”

Acts 10:11-15
Acts 15:10, 19-20
Romans 14:14
Galatians 2:11-17
Colossians 2:21
Romans 10:4

“These ceremonial regulations in the law had a function as symbolically teaching the reality and importance of moral purity. They demanded an external separation which pointed to the need for an inner heart condition of separation unto God. But these external regulations in themselves did not convey the purity of heart to which they pointed. They were the shadow and not the substance (Heb. 10:1). When they found their fulfillment in Christ, these ceremonial foreshadowings became obsolete.”
– D. Edmund Hiebert

III. THE ELABORATION TO ALL WHO WILL HEAR (vs. 20-23)

A. The Recap (vs. 20)

“And He was saying, ‘That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.’ ”

B. The Register (vs. 21-22)

“ ‘For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.’ ”

“How humble we ought to be, when we read these verses! “All of us have become like one who is unclean” (Isa. 64:5) in God’s sight. He sees in each one of us countless evils which the world never sees at all, for he reads our hearts. Surely of all sins to which we are liable, self-righteousness is the most unreasonable and most unbecoming. How thankful we ought to be for the Gospel when we read these verses! That Gospel contains a complete provision for all the needs of our poor defiled natures. The blood of Christ can cleanse us from all sin.” The Holy Spirit can change even our sinful hearts, and keep them clean when they are changed.”
– J.C. Ryle

C. The Restatement (vs. 23)

“All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

Conclusion:

- 1) Facing up to the ugliness of your sin is a painful but necessary thing you need to do.
- 2) Hypocrisy is a grave spiritual danger. You need to acknowledge your sinfulness before the Lord and ask His forgiveness.
- 3) Jesus Christ is the only cure for your diseased heart. You need to give it to Him unconditionally.

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the meaning of “defile him” in these verses? What is the nature of the defilement?
- 2) What is the importance of listening to Him? What are the practical applications of this?
- 3) How do you account for the continuing obtuseness of the disciples up to this point?
- 4) “Thus He declared all foods clean” (vs. 19) seems to be a *non sequitur*. How do you explain this and relate it to the rest of the discussion with the disciples?