

THE PROBLEM OF CLEAN HANDS, DIRTY HEARTS

(King Jesus: The Gospel of Matthew- Part 37)

November 8, 2020

Matthew 15:1-20

To Experience a Clean Heart:

1. Watch out for _____ - vs. 1-9
2. Leave _____ behind - vs. 12-14
3. Prioritize _____ - vs. 10-20
4. Allow Jesus to _____ - Zechariah 3

Fill-ins: tradition; blind guides; heart over hands; cleanse you

Life Group Questions for the Week of November 8, 2020

1. Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

We saw Sunday how Jesus' disciples were criticized for not following religious traditions. Read Matthew 15:1-20.

2. Something God uses at one time, with great impact, can become a tradition that can impede future generations in fully following God (if not totally fall into a spiritual ditch.) Read Numbers 21:4-9. Hundreds of years later, this bronze snake was still around (read 2 Kings 18:1-4.)

Can you think of any "bronze snakes" (traditions and/or spiritual disciplines) in your life, or in the life of other Christians, that have moved (or have the potential to move) from something God uses to draw you closer to Himself, that brings blessing, to becoming something that is worshipped in place of God?

3. We saw Sunday that Jesus says in Mt. 15:14 not to pay attention to blind guides (those who follow and teach others to follow man-made traditions instead of the word of God.) How can we ensure that we don't follow or become a blind guide?

4. What are some ways we can honor God with our lips but have hearts that are far from God? (Mt. 15:8,9)

5. What are ways we can keep our relationship with Jesus from becoming an external ritual(s)?

6. In Mt. 15:19, Jesus lists things that originate in the heart that defile a person. How would you summarize Jesus' description of some of those sins in Mt. 5? What does the Gospel teach about how to be cleansed of sin's defilement?