

Spiritual Defilement – The Heart of the Problem (Mark 7:14–23)

Introduction

I. A Public Exhortation – Jesus Addresses the Crowd (vv. 14–16)

A. An Urgent Matter—Listen Up! (vv. 14, 16)

B. An Important Truth —Chew on This! (v. 15)

II. A Private Explanation – Jesus Addresses the Disciples (vv. 17–23)

“Parable” = An illustrative saying or comparison used to teach a spiritual truth.

A. The Disciples Rebuked—Don’t You Get It?! (vv. 17–18a)

B. The Truth Explained—Here’s What I Mean (vv. 18b–23)

1) Food Doesn’t Defile You (vv. 18b–19)

2) Your Evil Heart Defiles You (vv. 20–23)

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed...”

- “The evil thoughts” (*hoi dialogismoi hoi kakoi*) =
- “fornications” (*porneia*) =
- “thefts” (*klopai*) =
- “murders” (*phonoi*) =
- “adulteries” (*moikeiai*) =
- “deeds of coveting” (*pleonexiai*) =
- “wickedness” (*poneriai*) =
- “deceit” (*dolos*) =
- “sensuality” (*aselgeia*) =
- “envy” (*ophthalmos poneros*) =
- “slander” (*blasphemia*) =
- “pride” (*huperephania*) =
- “foolishness” (*aphrosune*) =

Three Applications:

- 1) When it comes to personal sin, you cannot play the victim card.
- 2) We need to use Biblical terminology when we talk about sin.
- 3) You need to address the heart in order to change your ways.

Conclusion – Check Your Heart!