

The Source Of Individual Evil

Matthew 15:10-20

Intro:

A. **The Jewish spiritual leaders believed and taught that man is defiled by what he does.**

1. "...thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders" v.2
2. "...they wash not their hands when they eat bread."

B. **Jesus taught them the truth.**

1. "These are the things which defile a man:"
v.20
2. "...to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man..."

I. Jesus States The Principle.

A. **"And he called the multitude, and said unto them, hear and understand."**

1. called = προσκαλεω = "to call to one's self"
v.10
2. understand = συνιημι = "to comprehend."

B. **What defileth a man? V.11**

1. "...not that which goeth into the mouth..."
2. "...but that which cometh out of the mouth..."
3. defileth = κοινωω = "to make common", "to make common ceremonially, hence to defile."

II. The Truth Offends.

A. **"then came his disciples and said unto him, knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? V.12**

1. "Are you aware..." - Ber.
2. offended = σκανδαλιζω = "to cause to stumble" to cause deep religious offense at Jesus' teaching.

B. **The truth offends those who are wrong.**

1. The truth about God...
2. The truth about the church...

C. **What should we do?**

1. Error will not stand. **V.13**
2. Let them alone = "Let them talk..." **v.14**
3. They are blind, they lead the blind.
4. They shall all fall in the ditch.

III. Jesus Explains More Fully.

A. **Peter makes a request. V.15**

1. declare = φραζω = "to interpret"
2. "Explain completely this illustration."

B. **The process of eating and digestion. V.16-17**

1. That which is eaten goes to the belly.
2. It does not go to the heart.
3. It goes to the latrine.

IV. That Which Truly Defiles A Man.

A. **That which comes up truly defiles. V.18**

1. They proceed out of the mouth.
2. They defile the man.

B. **That which comes from the heart.**

1. evil thoughts, murders, adulteries... **v.19**
2. fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

C. **Jesus settles the issue.**

1. "These are the things..." **V.20**
2. "to eat with unwashed hands do not..."