

Sermon Notes – November 9, 2014
“Inside Out”
Mark 7:1-23
Pastor Bill Hoffman

Verses 1-5: How do you understand the religious leaders’ concern about the washing of hands – why was this important to them?

Verses 6-8: What words and phrases strike you in Jesus’ biting response? How do you understand his distinction between “the commands of God” and the “traditions of men” (vs. 8-9)? What might be some examples of this distinction today?

Verses 14-19: Unlike the traditions about washing hands, the Jews’ beliefs about certain foods being unclean come directly from the Scriptures – see the Book of Leviticus.

-Mark’s editorial comment in verse 19 suggests that Old Testament food laws no longer apply.

-Does this imply that other Old Test. standards may not be applicable?

-If not, why not; and if so, how can we know which remain applicable and which do not?

Verses 20-23: Note this representative list of things that make a person “unclean”. Some are deeds, others character traits and attitudes. Where does Jesus say they all originate?

It may be tempting with this text to focus mostly on Jesus vs. the religious establishment, or the folly of making judgments about people based on picky human traditions. But Jesus’ fiercest criticism here is of the human heart as the source of evil.

The Old Testament looked forward to a day when God would give people new hearts (see Ezekiel 36:26), and the New Test. wit-nesses to how this was fulfilled in Jesus (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).