

Scripture this week:

Mark 7:14-23

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."
¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Big "S" Sin

Mark 7:14-23

Todd Chapman - February 24, 2019

Our obsession with the expression of Sin, with sinful behaviors, diminishes our ability to recognize the magnitude of our problem. Sin flows from our core. Each of us is a Sinner.

The Pharisees and the peoples' misunderstanding of "sin", or is it "Sin"?

Jesus clarifies. Our sin flows from our Sin. We are sinners because we are Sinners. Our sinful attitudes and acts flow from our Sinful nature.

Pre-Life Group Study Questions:

Notes:

Mark 7:14-23

What does the text say?

1. Summarize Mark thus far. What are some of the big themes we've seen?
2. Describe the connection between Mark 7:1-13 and vv. 14-23.
3. How does Mark follow-up Jesus' interaction with the Pharisees in vv. 14-23?
4. What does Jesus mean by his statement in v. 15? How would you paraphrase it to make it easier to understand?
5. How should we understand Jesus' response to the disciples in v. 18?
6. What is Jesus specifically referencing through the "heart", and how does it participate in one's defilement?
7. What is the significance of Jesus declaring all foods clean? How does this relate to tradition?
8. What are some examples Jesus uses to demonstrate things that come out of the heart of man? What do these things ultimately point to in our lives?
9. How do you think Jesus' teaching changed the way the disciples thought of sin? How does Jesus' view relate to what they know from the Old Testament?
10. How would you paraphrase Mark's big idea in 7:14-23?

How does the text apply?

1. What was your view of sin growing up? How has it changed? How would you define sins vs. sin nature today?
2. How do you fight the feeling of coming up short/being a failure because we never completely overcome our sin? What is the role of your Life Group to encourage honest dialogue and help one another have confidence in Jesus' victory over sin?
3. What does Ongoing Spiritual Transformation mean in light of your view of sin?
4. How would you communicate this understanding of sin to people that have yet to treasure Christ? Where do you start?