

These questions are provided for your further study and application of the message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others.

Discussion Questions

Date: September 23, 2018

Mark 7:14-23

1. Jesus addressed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in Mark 7:1-13 and in verse 14 explains that a person is not made clean by washing their hands or by eating particular foods. What are some “extra” things, like special hand washings, that Christians today may believe make them cleaner or holier if they do them?
2. If you had been in the crowd and heard Jesus tell you that you could be just as holy and clean as the Pharisees, how might you have been encouraged?
3. To defile something means to spoil or desecrate it. How can our words ruin our witness and our testimony?
4. Often, when something goes wrong, people say, “Well I didn’t mean it. It was just words.” Based on Jesus’s words in Mark 7 and in Matthew 15:17-18, are our words ever “just words?” Where do our words originate?
5. Read Colossians 4:6 and Ephesians 4:29. How can the intentional use of “wholesome” words help you to build others up and answer others with grace?
6. Read Proverbs 10:19; 15:4; 15:28; 17:9. How do each of these verses show that the value of a changed heart is illustrated in the proper use of words?
7. Family verse: Read and memorize Matthew 15:11. Discuss the importance of using good words in your family.