

Gospel of Mark

WHAT GOD CARES ABOUT MOST

Mark 7:14-23

Opener: What have you been thinking about from the message on Sunday?

Read Mark 7:14-23

1. The religious leaders focused primarily on external religious practices to make them pure and presentable to God. Presently, in what ways do religious people continue to focus on external practices as a substitute for genuine righteousness?
2. Jesus teaches that sin is a heart problem and not an environmental problem. How does this inform the level of responsibility we need to take for the sins that we do?
3. Since every kind of evil that fills our minds and comes out in our behavior has its origin in our hearts, what do we learn about our nature as humans?
4. How serious is the problem of defilement that evil does to us? What consequences or limitations come from it now and in the long term?

Read Proverbs 4:23

5. Why is it important to guard your heart?
6. What is trying to get into your heart presently that you need to consciously guard your heart against? How do you successfully guard your heart?

Read Ezekiel 36:26 & 2 Corinthians 5:17

7. God gives a person a new heart and the Spirit, and they become a new person since the **source** of their life has been changed. Why is there still a struggle to do what is good and hate what is evil? What is the right perspective for understanding our identity when we believe in Jesus?

Read Galatians 5:16-17, 22-25

8. How do you walk in the Spirit? Does it involve conscious decisions and actions in your day-to-day? If so, what decisions and actions?
9. What comes out of your heart and life when you walk by the Spirit?

Closing: What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to what you have considered today in God's Word?