

HEART LEVEL OBEDIENCE

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—March 26th, 2023

Mark 7:14-23

(ESV)

[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.”

INTRODUCTION

This passage before us today is about genuine heart motivated obedience.

Mark 1:15—*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

Mark 4:41—*“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

Legalism is when I establish the standard of holiness.

In the gospel God is the standard of holiness and he is also the giver of holiness.

Our hearts are bent towards evil and wickedness unless the Lord transforms our hearts.

THE PRIORITY OF THE HEART

Followers of Christ don't just hear the message of Christ, they hear and understand.

Proverbs 18:2

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,
but only in expressing his opinion.*

Obedience is born of the heart and not from outward rituals.

In the Bible the heart is the essence of who we are internally.

Proverbs 4:23

*Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*

Jesus didn't want his disciples to just find a little relief from the traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees; Jesus wanted his disciples to experience complete freedom in him.

Leviticus 19:2—*“You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”*

2 Corinthians 1:20—*For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.*

Marvel, rejoice, enjoy the freedom Jesus has bought for you.

Galatians 5:1—*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

1 Corinthians 10:31—*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

THE NATURE OF THE HEART

The human heart by nature produces nothing good.

Jeremiah 17:9

*The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?*

Nothing we do is not first born in our hearts.

The Scribes and the Pharisees attempted to make themselves right before God through traditions and commandments, but Jesus offers his salvation through the transformation we can experience in the new birth.

Ezekiel 36:26—*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*