

What’s the problem with the world?

the problem is the heart — *YOUR* own heart (Gen 6.5; Lk 6.45)

### *Background to Mark 7*

- Mk 7.1-13—showed the human traditions (externals) were elevated & the word of God was set aside. What's the real issue? What is the real core problem in mankind?
  - v.14- things which come OUT of the man defile him
  - v.20 - that which comes OUT OF THE MAN
  - v.21 - from within, out of the heart of men...
  - v.23 - all these things COME OUT from within...
    - note the repetition of the Greek preposition: from/out of**

**THESIS — uncleanness isn’t a matter of traditions & handwashings (externals), it’s having “evil things proceed from within” (v.23a)**

From this passage, we wanna understand the basic mechanics of how humans work, why we do what we do, and what the real problem is — and where hope is found!

## **I. THE PRECIOUSNESS OF YOUR HEART (14a; Prov 4.23)**

## **II. THE PRIORITY OF YOUR HEART (14b-16)**

“YOU CANNOT Trust your own heart to know itself; the only reliable guide for self-knowledge is the Word of God. Your sinful heart is not only difficult to understand but also deceptive – it will lie to you (PROV 28.26). it is full of rationalizations for sin as it is prone to cast itself and its motives in the most favorable light...

**Mark 7:14-23 — “The Heart of Man: The Biggest Problem Is What Comes Out From Within You”**

Again, he continues: GOD is the only righteous judge of your heart. Any dominating DESIRE OF THE HEART that replaces the desire to love and serve God foremost is an IDOL. It may not be an idol of wood and stone but it is just as destructive. A heart idol will demand worship. Your heart is full of controlling voices that will call for your complete allegiances (Dr. John Street, Passions of the Heart, pp.25-26).

**III. THE PILOT OF YOUR HEART (20)**

- **Your heart determines your BEHAVIOR.**

Since my “heart” also signifies my “intentions,” my “will,” it makes sense to say that there are things my heart is wanting. I think about the things I want, I make decisions related to the things I want, and my emotions are especially strong when I don’t get the things I want. Another word for “wants” is “desires.” We are wanting, desiring beings... This Lordship starts in my heart (mind, will, emotions), and the heart is the place of my treasures. So what do your thinking, decision making, and emotions reveal about who or what is truly lord of your life? What are you treasuring? (Paul Tautges)

**IV. THE POWER OF YOUR HEART (21-23)****V. THE PURIFICATION OF YOUR HEART!**

1. It must begin with DIVINE REGENERATION (you?)
2. It must continue with DIVINE ILLUMINATION
3. It must persevere with DIVINE SANCTIFICATION
4. It must embrace DIVINE MORTIFICATION

For the believer, more specifically:

- I need a pure **PERCEPTION**

**Mark 7:14-23 — “The Heart of Man: The Biggest Problem Is What Comes Out From Within You”**

- Heb 4.12 - God knows the thoughts/intentions of the heart
- 1 Sam 16.7 - the LORD looks at the heart (not outward, but internal)
- 1 Chron 29.14 - God tests the heart and delights in uprightness
- Acts 15.8 - GOD knows the heart
- I need a pure **PASSION**
  - 1 Kings 11.4 - women turned Solomon’s heart away to follow other Gods
  - Psalm 19.8 - God’s word rejoices the heart
  - Prov 22.5 - foolishness is bound up in the HEART of a child
- I need a pure **PETITION**
  - Prov 27.19 - the heart of man reflects who man really is
  - Prov 16.1 - the PLANS of the heart belong to a man
  - Psalm 19.14 - the meditations of the heart
  - Psalm 139:24-24 - search my heart...

**when you understand that \*your heart\* is the real issue:**

1. it guards you from behaviorism
2. it protects you from self-righteousness
3. it condemns man as guilty
4. it motivates heartfelt repentance
5. it disallows blame shifting
6. it offers hope in Christ who changes hearts
7. it pinpoints dangerous roots not just fruits
8. it allows for real, biblical change to occur
9. it drives you to Scripture for help, hope & change.
10. it equips you to counsel others adequately

To find excavate and understand what’s in your heart, ask these questions. What do you want in your heart?

1. what wants and desires in your heart are opposed to God’s wants and desires?
2. what does God want and desire that agrees with YOUR wants and desires, but YOU want it so much that you are willing to sin/be ungodly if you don’t get it?
3. what are the controlling expectations that dominate your heart with evil thoughts, ungodly words, and sinful actions when they are unrealized? (expectations)
4. what do you consider your \*rights\* to be, and how do you react in ungodly ways when they are denied? (i have a right to be loved, cared for, respected, promoted, have kids)
5. what specific standards have you set for your life that are not God’s standards but have led you to sinful thoughts and practices? (=self generated ambitions for life)
6. what mindset have you adopted that is opposed to God’s truth and leads you to sinful thoughts and plans and intentions?

**Here are some suggested questions that have proven helpful time and time again from the family room to the counseling room:**

- What was going on? (**SITUATION** – Prov 18:13, 15, 17; Prov 20:5)
- What were you thinking/feeling? (**HEART** – Prov 23:7; Jer 17:9)
- What did you do in response? (**BEHAVIOR** – Prov 4:23)
- What did you want? (**MOTIVE** – Jas 4:1-3; Matt 6:21)
- What was the result? (**CONSEQUENCES** - Gal 6:7)
- What should be most important? (**WORSHIP** – Matt 22:37-39; 1 Cor 10:31)<sup>1</sup>
- These questions start with the issue(s) at hand and draw out the issue(s) of the heart, thus allowing us to once again to emphasize our great need for Christ (Matt 11:28; John 15:5).

**THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 In heaven above and earth below  
 Praise God the Father and the Son  
 Praise God the Spirit, three-in-one

Eternal are Your mercies, Lord  
 Eternal truth attends Your Word  
 Your praise will sound from shore to shore  
 Till suns shall rise and set no more

From all that dwell beneath the skies  
 Let the Creator’s praise arise  
 Let our Redeemer’s name be sung  
 Through every land, by every tongue

**WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
 on which the Prince of glory died,  
 my richest gain I count but loss,  
 and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
 sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
 save in the death of Christ, my God!  
 All the vain things that charm me most,  
 I sacrifice them through his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
 that were a present far too small.  
 Love so amazing, so divine,  
 demands my soul, my life, my all.