

THE HEART, THE WELLSPRING OF LIFE

MATTHEW 15:10-20

If my heart is the source of my sin problem, then lasting change must always travel through the pathway of my heart. It is not enough to alter my behavior or to change my circumstances. Christ transforms people by radically changing their hearts.

-Paul Tripp

I. The Principle

II. The Offense

III. The Explanation

IV. A New Heart

Getting to Know You:

1. What is one thing you absolutely will not eat?

Into the Bible:

2. Jesus has consistently challenged the Pharisees about outward displays of religion that lacked true spiritual commitment. In verse 11 He takes on their kosher dietary restrictions. To see how important keeping kosher was to the Jews and how difficult it was to let it go under the new covenant of grace, compare Peter's experience in Acts 10 & 11 with Paul's need to reprove him in Galatians 2:11-16. Is there a warning here to us about the cultural acceptance that comes from doing good things to be seen as a "good person"?

3. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that a wicked heart is the natural state of mankind but what does God promise in Ezekiel 36:26? If Psalm 51:1-10 is any indication, what initiates the process of change in our heart's condition?

Application:

4. Jesus indicates in verse 18-19 that the true status of our heart is revealed by what we say. Luke 6:45 and Proverbs 4:23 offer the same insight. What should now characterize our conversation as a product of our changed hearts? (Colossians 4:6, Proverbs 15:23, Ephesians 4:29)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about the need for God to change our hearts.