



desert breeze community church

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June 21, 2009
Jesusology

Mark 7:14-23

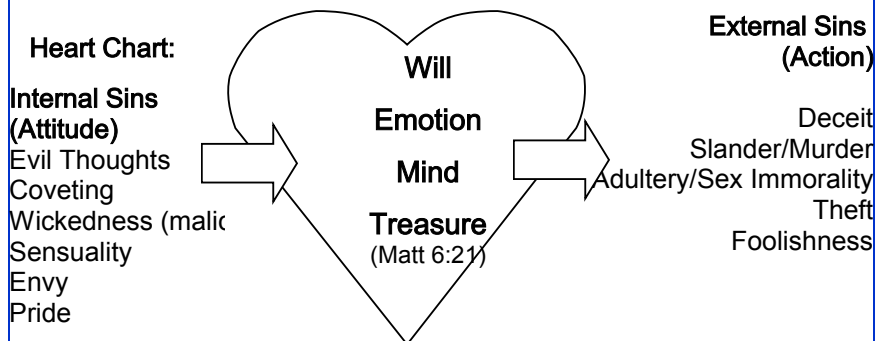
“Inside Out Change”

The Gospel of Mark is about the life of Jesus Christ (seeing & savoring Him). You cannot know Jesus Christ and walk in vital union with Him and stay the same.

Mark 7:14-23

Everyone Needs Change: Jesus and the religious leaders are arguing over the Mosaic purity laws. Jesus wasn't disputing the fact that people are spiritually unclean (Vv15 & 20) but He was disputing the cause and cure for their uncleanness. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8)

- **What's wrong with us?** A good thing I insanely want. (inordinate desires). (Rom. 13:14; Eph. 2:3; Gal. 5:16-17; James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:16, 5:21)
- **What's wrong with wanting things that seem good?** The evil in our desires is not in what we want but in the fact that we want it too much.
- **How can you tell if a desire is inordinate?** Inordinate desires produce bad fruits: 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.*
 - ✓ One inordinate desire can generate very diverse sins.
 - ✓ A single behavioral sin can emerge from diverse inordinate desires.



Outside-in Doesn't Work: (Works Righteousness) Moral restrained Heart. The religious leaders had turned the means of worship into an end. Jesus is using very vivid language in showing that outside in doesn't work: vv18-23

- **What does a moral restrained heart focus on?**
(Luke 6:43-45; Matt. 6:1-6, 15, 7:21-23)
Will = Just say no, will power, change your behavior change your life.
Emotion = Do what makes you happy, self-esteem, fill your empty love tank.
Mind = Think positive thoughts, garbage in garbage out, you can become whatever you set your mind on.
- **Can a moral restrained heart still produce virtuous behavior?** Yes, but it is motivated by fear and/or pride. (Common virtue).
- **Why is this ultimately a house of cards?** It doesn't root out the fundamental cause of evil in the human heart (inordinate desires), it only reinforces it. (Mark 7:1-13; Matt. 23:1-36; Luke 15:11-32 Elder Bro.)

Inside-out Does Work: (Grace Righteousness) Supernaturally transformed Heart. V19 (thus he declared all foods clean). In other words the clean laws have been fulfilled we no longer have to follow them. Why? Because Jesus fulfilled them! (Matt. 5:18; 2 Cor. 5:21)

- **What should be the ordinate desire of our lives?** We were made to not just believe in God in some general way, but to love Him supremely, center our lives on Him above anything else, and to build our very identities on Him. Anything other than this is sin. (Matt. 22:34-38, 13:44; Ps. 37:4, 42:1-2, 63:1, 36:8, 34:8, 119:103, 43:4, 16:11)
- **How does this fundamentally restructure the heart?** This is moral behavior produced not because it profits you or makes you feel better, but because you have been smitten by the beauty and love of Jesus Christ (True Virtue).
- **How can this be sustained and grown?** My new ruling desires for the Lord Jesus Christ expel lesser masters from the throne making them sane and orderly. I must daily repent and work to increase my appetite for God through spiritual disciplines to keep my heart from being hijacked from God's rule. (2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Cor. 9:24-27)



Growing

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- 1) You cannot know Jesus Christ and walk in vital union with Him and stay the same. Explain. How has your life changed and what areas are you still needing more change?

- 2) Read Mark 7:14-21. Jesus and the religious leaders are arguing over the Mosaic purity laws. Jesus wasn't disputing the fact that people are spiritually unclean (Vv15 & 20) but He was disputing the cause and cure for their uncleanness. Explain.

- 3) Everyone needs change. What is ultimately wrong with us (James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:16, 5:21)? What are inordinate desires and how can you tell if a desire is inordinate? How can one inordinate desire generate very diverse sins and a single behavioral sin emerge from diverse inordinate desires?

- 4) What does a moral restrained heart tend to focus on? Can a moral restrained heart produce virtuous behavior? Why is a moral restrained heart (outside in change) ultimately a house of cards (Luke 6:43-45; Matt. 6:1-6, 15, 7:21-23)?

- 5) What should be the ordinate desire of our lives (Matt. 22:34-38, 13:44; Ps. 37:4, 42:1-2)? How does this fundamentally restructure the heart? What do you need to do to sustain and grow this ultimate passion for Jesus Christ in your life? Make it your prayer.