

**Reflection Questions:** When do I blame others or external things for my sin? Who really is to blame? What have I allowed into my heart that impacts my life? What evil motives and intentions have I displayed recently? How will I destroy those things before they show themselves in my words and actions?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



Internal or External

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

April 30, 2023

1. Jesus and the Crowd (14-16)

### Quotes to Ponder

*Human sin cannot be removed or held in check by a series of man-made rules, or through performing a series of religious ceremonies, like the ceremonial washing of the hands. Human sinfulness lies deep with the human heart.*

Kim Riddlebarger

*Outside-in will never work, because most of what causes our problems works from the inside out.*

Timothy Keller

The line between good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

*Sin and the devil will always find helpers in our hearts.*

J.C. Ryle

*The source from which these rivers of pollution proceed is the natural heart of man. Sin is not a splash of mud upon man's exterior, it is a filth generated within himself.*

Charles Spurgeon

*For as long as we think of the Pharisees as notoriously evil, as evil in a way that surpasses the generality of men and women, we will not be inclined to see the most important thing about the Pharisees, which is that their spirit and their sins live in each one of us and that what Jesus found to condemn in them He can find in everyone of us far too much of the time.*

Robert S. Rayburn

2. Jesus and the Disciples (17-23)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read this account in the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you solve them?

*Matthew 15:10-20* —

*Mark 7:14-23* —

3. In *Mark 7:14-23* is Jesus doing the same thing the Pharisees did? Is He ignoring the Law and giving people His own traditions? Explain.

4. How does Jesus' teaching in *Mark 7:15* connect with His response to the Pharisees and scribes in *verses 6-13*?

5. Does the fact that *Mark 7:16* probably isn't original to Mark's gospel cause you to doubt all of Scripture? Why or why not?

6. Why are the disciples so slow to understand what Jesus is teaching (*Mark 7:18*; cf. *6:52*; *8:14-21*)?

7. What is significant about Mark's commentary in *Mark 7:19*?

8. What do the following Scriptures teach about the law and food?

*Acts 10:9-16*

*1 Corinthians 8:8* —

*Romans 14:14-23* —

*Colossians 2:16-17, 20-23* —

9. Is the list Jesus gives in *Mark 7:21-22* comprehensive?

10. How does *Mark 7:21-23* shape the way we understand evil in the world?

11. How does what Jesus teaches here change the way we fight against sin?

12. What are some specific implications of Jesus' teaching in this passage for us today?

13. What do the following verses teach about our heart, our inner being?

*Genesis 6:5* —

*Psalms 139:23-24* —

*Deuteronomy 6:5* —

*Proverbs 4:23* —

*Deuteronomy 10:12, 16* —

*Proverbs 21:2* —

*Deuteronomy 30:6* —

*Isaiah 29:13* —

*1 Samuel 13:14* —

*Jeremiah 17:9-10* —

*1 Samuel 16:7* —

*Romans 1:21* —

*2 Kings 20:3* —

*Romans 2:28-29* —

*1 Chronicles 28:9* —

*Ephesians 1:18* —

14. Is it more important that we guard our hearts or our behavior? Explain.