Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — August 28, 2022

Sermon Notes: "The Heart of the Matter," <u>Matthew 15:10-20</u>, by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor.

Old Testament Reading: <u>Jeremiah 31:31-34</u> New Testament Reading: <u>Matthew 5:17-30</u>

Last week: (Matthew 15:1-9)

- Be careful not to let your tradition override God's Word
- Not a religion, but a relationship.
- Pharisees accuse Jesus of not teaching God's way according to rabbinic tradition
- Jesus exposes incoherence of the Oral Torah and Written Torah
- Words of Humans vs. Word of God

What is the 'Purity' Principle? (Exodus 30:18-21; Yadayim (Hands))

This week: (Matthew 15:10-20)

The only interaction that Jesus initiates is with the crowds. Why Jesus feels he needs to address the crowds?

Jesus gives a dual command that contradicts the oral tradition. What was this command? (<u>Matthew 15:10</u>)

Jesus makes a statement that is profound and is a direct challenge to the Pharisees and the oral tradition. Read <u>Matthew 15:11</u>.

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(Over)

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Jesus follows this with a metaphor. What was it? (Matthew 15:13)

Then follows the metaphor with a command. What was it? (<u>Matthew</u> 15:14)

What Jesus was saying seemed to be in conflict to what the disciples understood on how to be in right standing before God. How did Jesus respond to their continued need to have Jesus sayings explained to them. (Matthew 15:15-17)

Jesus connects what comes out of the mouth to what is the condition of the heart. What are the things that defile a person? (Matthew 15:18-19; Exodus 20:1-17)

See the 'bookends' of this interaction and teaching:

- What was the external focus of the Pharisees? (Matthew 15:2)
- What is the internal focus of Jesus? (<u>Matthew 15:20</u>)

The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart
To save a world that's dying, it's the only place to start
We can sway one's opinion, turn their point of view
But only 'til the heart is changed can the old become the new
Excerpt from the lyrics of Brother's Keeper

Additional Notes:

<u>Internet Resources: The Bible Project: Matthew 1-13; The Bible Project: Matthew 14-28; Matthew Overview Poster</u>

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