



Introduction

In this passage Jesus begins to address question, posed by the religious leaders, about the issue of true cleanliness and defilement. For the religious leaders, the issue was mainly a matter of outward observances. Yet for Jesus, the real problem of filth and defilement was not a matter of externals but rather of the heart, which needed to be cleaned.

Observation/Interpretation

- Religion often deals with “outward actions”. The problem is that one can “do” and “say” all the correct things while inwardly still being a slave to an oppressive master. How does Jesus liberate us from sin/sinful desires that govern and torment us?
- In Mark 7:21, why does Jesus say that the heart is at the center (the motor or the factory) of all the listed evil deeds?
- Jesus said, “All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” (Mark 7:23). Read Ezekiel 36:26, and talk about the promise God makes to his people as to how he’ll deal with the problem of broken and defiled hearts.

Application

- What areas in your life do you need God to give you a clean, new and pure heart?
- What are areas in your life that you’ve sought to cover by “outward acts of righteousness” while internally you are impure and defiled?

Prayer

- Pray for one another that you would be transparent in your life by not being hypocritical in which you attempt to cover up an impure and defiled heart.
- Ask God to use your life as a sign of his purifying and cleansing grace.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.