

JESUS IS THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Mark 7:1-23

I. Incident (Mark 7:1-4)

Their solution is others focused because they see others as the problem. **YOU'RE** the problem, ergo, you need to do the changing and correcting. They are **adulterating**, **weaponizing**, and then **misapplying** God's Word while **exalting** their own sinful hearts.

I. Incident (Mark 7:1-4)

II. Intention (Mark 7:5)

I. Incident

II. Intention

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

Whenever you find yourself in conflict, you need to ask what the incident or situation is revealing to you about what **YOU** think, say, and do toward...

- **God!** Where is Jesus in all this? Have you considered Him?
- **Person.** How is God using this person to show me **MY** heart's responses?

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

They live within their own minds.

What are they getting wrong? What are they missing?

It's not so much what they got wrong or missed but, more importantly, Who they are getting wrong and missing. They are getting Jesus wrong. This is why I often ask, '**where is Jesus in all this?**'

What does Jesus use to expose their pride and self-righteousness?

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

Jesus uses God's Word to expose and clarify the **REAL PROBLEM** in this conflict:

V. 6-7 “Hypocrites” (*hypokrites*) = pretender, actor, stage-player.

Falsehood. Jesus is using God's Word to label the problem of their hearts: their hearts are **lying** to them. In sin, our hearts are disloyal and lawless.

“... *teaching as doctrine the precepts of men.*” Here is the **integration** of the wisdom of man with the wisdom of God, the mixing in of error with truth.

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

They **BELIEVE** the wrong while insisting on being in the right. This is a man-centered, man-focused view of what is good, right, and needed.

What we **BELIEVE** in any given situation/circumstance is what shapes who we are. We are the product of what we allow ourselves to believe about God/us/world.

FALSE DOCTRINE is so dangerous because it shapes how we see ourselves, others, and our world. You are constantly making meaning of your life and relationships. **What is most informing your views and interpretations?**

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

In given situations and relationships, are you **characteristically** angry, impatient, irritated, frustrated, annoyed, argumentative, sullen, disengaged, quick to assign motives, withdrawn, critical, and things like this? What thoughts/desires are behind these actions?

This kind of behavior says more about **your view of Jesus** than anything else about you. Where is Jesus in moments like this in your life? Pride is an ugly thing.

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

Their pride and self-deception are shown in...

- False speech
- False worship

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

V. 8, 9, 13 “Neglecting”, “setting aside”, “invalidating” — what? **God’s Word!**
These actions reveal their relationship to truth, to God’s true views of the matters at hand.

- “**Neglecting**” (*aphiemi*) = to dismiss, depart from, abandon. Sense: to stop maintaining or insisting on.
- “**Setting aside**” (*atheteo*) = to reject, to render void and deprive of force and authority. Sense: to take away the legal force of or render ineffective — to **disesteem**.
- “**Invalidate**” (*akyroo*) = to render void, deprive of force and authority.

I. Incident

II. Intention

III. Indictment (Mark 7:6-13)

They do all of this by **replacing THEIR** voice for the voice of God, by replacing their own views, desires, and agendas for God's truth.

I. Incident

II. Intention

III. Indictment

IV. Injunction (Mark 7:14)

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*“Listen to me, all of you, and **understand**...”*

- “*Listen*” and “*understand*” are voiced as a dual command from Jesus.
- “*Listen*” = to hear with intention
- “*Understand*” = to join together in the mind — to know and comprehend the nature and meaning of.
- Heed, obey, and apply what I’m about to tell you; it is very important for your life.

I. Incident

II. Intention

III. Indictment

IV. Injunction

V. Issue (Mark 7:15)

I. Incident

II. Intention

III. Indictment

IV. Injunction

V. Issue

VI. Inability (Mark 7:17)

VI. Inability (Mark 7:17)

Spiritual things must be understood spiritually — that is, by the ministry of the Holy Spirit making known to our minds the truths and insights of understanding/wisdom.

*“For the **Lord gives** wisdom; from **His mouth** come knowledge and understanding.”* (Prov. 2:6)

*“**Open my eyes**, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.”*
(Ps 119:18)

*“**Give me understanding**, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart.”* (Ps. 119:34)

- I. Incident
- II. Intention
- III. Indictment
- IV. Injunction
- V. Issue
- VI. Inability

VII. Interpretation (Mark 7:18-20)

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This is the **reproof**, the answer of God's truth intended to expose and stop the lies.

Jesus moves to the corrective — the aspects of truth meant to **REPLACE** the lies with what will help them make good and heavenly sense of the situation.

- I. Incident
- II. Intention
- III. Indictment
- IV. Injunction
- V. Issue
- VI. Inability
- VII. Interpretation

VIII. Instruction (Mark 7:21-23)

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What place inside of you does Jesus locate the problem of impurity/defilement? **HEART!**

Where does your sin come from? **WITHIN**, from your **HEART**.

Jesus debunks the false gods they are putting their faith in:

- **SELF**-trust
- **SELF**-reliance
- **SELF**-favoring

VIII. Instruction (Mark 7:21-23)

Jesus **teaches** us as His followers. He does not teach unbelievers.

Why not?

*“But a natural man **does not accept** the things of the Spirit of God.”*

Why not?

*“...for they are **foolishness** to him; and he **cannot** understand them.”*

Why not?

*“...because they are **spiritually** (by the Holy Spirit) *appraised* [examined].”*

(1 Cor. 2:14)

VIII. Instruction (Mark 7:21-23)

However, for **believers**, for those who are spiritual (of the Holy Spirit), we **CAN** have our hearts **instructed in truth** so that we **CAN** grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

*“All scripture is inspired (exhaled/created) by God and profitable for **TEACHING**, for **REPROOF**, for **CORRECTION**, for **TRAINING** in righteousness...”* (2 Tim. 3:16)

*“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow and able to **judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**.”*
(Heb. 4:12)

VIII. Instruction (Mark 7:21-23)

God loves us in His Son.

We need to follow Jesus.

VIII. Instruction (Mark 7:21-23)

Allow God's Word to expose the areas of your life where:

- you are discontent.
- you often fail in faithfulness to Christ.
- you are most often in conflict with another person or people...

And then **heed** Jesus' instruction to use His truth to plunge into your heart.

*“**Search** me, oh God, and know my heart,
Try me and know my anxious thoughts,
And **see** if there be any hurtful way in me,
And **lead** me in the everlasting way.”*
(Ps. 139:23-24)

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