

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Avoiding Defilement

Mark 7:14 *And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand. 15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him, but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. 16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear... 18 and he saith unto them, are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him: 19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats 20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

How much time do we spend making sure that we look our best? We spend time in the mirror with our hair, face, body and clothing. The thing about mirrors is that they can only reveal what's on the outside, the things that others can see. The greater internal things that need the most attention cannot be revealed by a mirror. This is where defilement takes place. If left unattended we can leave home defiled while looking great on the outside. Today we are also more conscious of our diet and what we put into our bodies. Please understand that God wants us to look our best, be healthy and eat a proper diet; however that is not all He wants us to concentrate on. As Jesus emphasizes in the text, believers we should spend more time making sure we are not defiled in our hearts. The Greek word for defile is *koinoo*, it means to make common, to render unhallowed, to make unclean, to profane. When we allow unholy things into our hearts we become defiled. If we allow unholy thoughts to dwell in our minds long enough it will eventually enter into our hearts and manifest itself for all to see. How we truly feel about people is always revealed over time. How we truly feel about God is revealed over time. One cannot remain pregnant indefinitely. At some point we must give birth or deliver what's inside. The Pharisee's made an attempt to conceal their true motives concerning Jesus. It was not possible to conceal their hearts from Him. He always knew the condition of their heart. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The Pharisees could not receive Jesus or even speak kind about him because their hearts were contaminated. They were defiled; and did not realize it; consequently what proceeded out of their mouths was venomous, blasphemous and critical of Jesus rather than acceptance, submission and love. Many times we don't have success serving in ministry with others, submitting to authority or celebrating the success of others because we are defiled. The irony here with the Pharisees is that they were extremely clean on the outside. They vigorously washed their hands and made sure that their clothing and appearance were immaculate before they appeared in public. I see the same spirit at work in our society and ministries. There is a remedy. The word of God must wash us every day. We literally must bathe daily in the word of God and allow the word to take the contaminates out of our hearts. The next time we look in the mirror, we must look beyond what the mirror reveals and make sure that our heart is also ready to go out and interact with others. I believe the enemy has heightened the attack on people's hearts. If you bear witness with this, I would like to hear from you to confirm what's in my spirit. Please email me. Seniorpastor@antiochchurchfamily.org Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill