

Pentwater Bible Church

Gospel of Mark
Message 29

October 19, 2014



On Bad Thoughts by Alphonse Liguori Cir.. Date unknown

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Mark
Message Twenty-Nine
The Sin That Comes From Within
October 19, 2014
Daniel E. Woodhead



SUPPER AT EMMAUS BY CARAVAGGIO CIR 1601

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT GENUINE DEFILEMENT

Mark 7:14-23

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. ¹⁷ And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. 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 of 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 (KJV).

JESUS CALL THE CROWD TO UNDERSTANDING

Mark 7:14

¹⁴ And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand (KJV).

Jesus makes it very clear that *all the people* need to hear what He had to say in this teaching. He wants *every one of you*, to listen *and understand* because this lesson is of the utmost importance for the entire world to understand and realize our situation on this earth, which is to live with an in born sin nature. He had just left an argument with the Scribes and Pharisees regarding ceremonial washing, which does nothing to ameliorate one's sin. First, He made a general proclamation to all in earshot and then with a deeper explanation to the apostles in private. This lesson will disclose the true source of spiritual defilement. His compassion for the human on this earth causes Him to reject the rigid legalistic manners of the Pharisees self made law and get to the core of the situation. This is Jesus typical manner. He leaves the conversation at hand and immediately directs the listener's attention to the spiritual nature of mankind and the remedy He brings to the earth. Just as He did with Nicodemus when He met with him. Nicodemus ask Jesus about His divine attributes and Jesus immediately directed the nature of the conversation to his need to have his spirit regenerated or as Jesus said, "born again." Here also Jesus leaves the misdirected legalistic poor and ineffective leadership of the Scribes and Pharisees to explain the genuine spiritual condition of mankind for which He left eternity and entered the earthy sphere of time and space to willingly atone for this human spiritual condition.

PHYSICAL THINGS FROM OUTSIDE HUMANS ENTERING DO NOT DEFILE

Mark 7:15-16

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 (KJV).

The Pharisees and Scribes had just condemned Him and His disciples for not practicing ceremonial washing of hands prior to eating their food. The presumption they asserted was if one did not practice this ceremonial washing, which was not for sanitary purposes, but spiritual purposes, then they would be spiritually unclean. Jesus was responding to that false ritual as having no spiritual benefit to one's soul whatsoever. He simply told the crowd that *there is nothing from without a man that entering into him can defile him*. This was contrary to the Pharisees teaching regarding the spiritual benefit of ceremonies. There is no benefit to the *spiritual condition* of mankind by following any ceremonies. In fact God has condemned this vigorously in the past (Isaiah 1:11; 66:3; 1Samuel 15:22; Psalms 50:8; Psalms 51:16; Proverbs 15:8; Proverbs 21:27; Jeremiah 6:20; Jeremiah 7:21; Amos 5:21; Micah 6:7; Matthew 9:13). This is all done through a conscious decision to accept the gift of Jesus' Substitutionary atonement and obey God.

Isaiah 1:11

¹¹ What unto me is the multitude of your sacrifices? saith Jehovah: I have had enough of the burnt-offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats. ¹² When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to trample my courts? ¹³ Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies,—I cannot away with iniquity and the solemn meeting. ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵ And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make

many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; ¹⁷learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow ¹⁸Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: ²⁰but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it (ASV 1901).

Here he is saying He is fed up with the Jews simply going through the motions of truly serving God with their ceremonies, because their heart was not in it.

I Samuel 15:22

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats (KJV).

Proverbs 15:8

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (KJV).

The religious authorities had abandoned the genuine Word of God for their own self-made rituals, which they had elevated above the clear teaching which He had given them through His prophets. Ever since the return from the Babylonian captivity there was a decline in Orthodox Judaism and a rise in Rabbinical Judaism, which stressed the non-God given books such as the Talmud and Midrashim. They emphasized the man made laws and ignored God's Laws. He had warned them of this in the past as clearly communicated through the verses of the Prophets. They refused to accept the prophets. For this He referred to them as stiff-necked (Deuteronomy 31:27; Psalm 75:5; Jeremiah 17:23).

Jeremiah 17:23

But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction (KJV).

When Jesus had finally had enough of the Jewish religious authorities he denounced them for their treatment of Him and the prophets before Him. They killed the prophets who God had sent to them before and they were mounting a campaign to kill Him too.

Luke 13:34

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! ³⁵ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (KJV).

In saying this Jesus had finally given up on them with their exceedingly hard hearts. Because He made it quite clear that He came to the earth to save them first. Just as the apostle Paul says that the Gospel is to the Jew first and then the Gentile. Here He is addressing the Jews and saying He had had enough of them. He knows the future though. At the end of the seven-year Tribulation He will return when they cry out to Him, *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*. This will signify their national regeneration.

Unfortunately for them they will lose two-thirds of their pre-tribulation population (Zechariah 13:9) through this massive war and the coming world leaders anti-Judaic practices of persecuting them (Revelation 13:7). This is a microcosm of the condition of mankind. Which is why Christ came to save this world from the sins in which it is steeped.

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith (KJV).

Man has a sin nature, which came into our human family at least six thousand years ago in the Garden of Eden. Christ's Gospel is *the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*. Just as we have seen He came with His message of genuine Salvation, which was given to the Jew first, and then the Gentile (Greek).

Matthew 15:24

But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel (KJV).

Just as He tried to reach the Jews in the Old Testament He started with the Jews in the New Testament. He came to save them. They corporately rejected Him even though all the common people followed Him and many believed the Gospel. But the leaders would not bend their stubborn stiff necks and rejected Him and ended up plotting and carrying out His execution.

The fact that sin came into the world though the plotting of God's adversary Satan was not the fault of every person that has since been born into the human family. Sin began in heaven with the Anointed Cherub Halal, "the son of the morning." Due to his rebellion his name was changed to Satan. Satan was not created evil. Christ said He saw Satan fall. (Luke 10:18) Sometime after the creation of the angelic beings (Job 38:4-7) God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1) There were essentially two falls, Lucifer and his angels as well as Adam and Eve. When he sinned and had his fall he became Satan (Hebrew for adversary) and ruined everything he could touch including the earth. The result was a corruption of the physical earth (Entropy) and the spiritual nature of mankind. God in His divine providence immediately set up the coming of the Messiah to provide a sacrifice for the sins of the world (Genesis 3:15). The fact that the Messiah (Gr. Christ) had to come to earth is well attested in Scripture. This original sin and Fall of mankind was the fault of the evil Anointed Cherub. It was also partially the fault of our original

parents for not following God's Word when they were supposed to stay away from the tree in the Garden. King David recognized this when he penned the Psalms.

Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me (KJV)

Physical and spiritual death was Adam's end and he returned to the ground, and then to dust. Man may attempt to be like God, but he is dust. This is a realization we all must accept.

Romans 5:12

Romans 5: 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (KJV):

I Corinthians 15: 20-22 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

JESUS DESCRIBES SIN'S TRUE HOME

Mark 7:17-19

¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) (ESV)

Now that they left the crowd that Jesus had just addressed He turns to His disciples and begins to give them further instruction as to the true nature of spiritual defilement and the fact that it has nothing to do with the nourishment a person takes in. He calls the difference heart and stomach. Whatever goes into the stomach is expelled in our waste. It never touches our heart. He is making a clear distinction in an illustration, which refutes the unhelpful teaching of the religious authorities. Jesus says eat anything you want from a spiritual sense because it is not going to affect your spiritual condition. This is what He came to do. It will require His death and resurrection though to complete the salvation, which He made available to all people. Now the Roman Christians to which Mark's book is primarily directed would not have had the Jewish experience to know the Pharisaical teaching but they could surely understand that spiritual defilement was not going to be eradicated by eating certain foods or conducting a ceremony. The same is true today in the Church. Attendance and ceremony will not save us, only a genuine profession of faith in Christ will.

TRUE EVIL IS INHERITED AND LODGE IN OUR SPIRITS

Mark 7:20-23

²⁰ *And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. ²¹ For from within, out of 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 (KJV).*

Jesus is making it quite clear to His disciples that which comes from a man's spirit not what goes in is where the permanent corruption lies. He gives the examples of:

1. Evil thoughts
2. Adulteries
3. Fornications
4. Murders
5. Thefts
6. Covetousness
7. Wickedness
8. Deceit
9. Lasciviousness
10. An Evil Eye
11. Blasphemy
12. Pride
13. Foolishness

Jeremiah described this as well.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it (KJV)?

So Jesus describes what is in the heart of a person. Paul characterized this well in Galatians.

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (KJV).

Paul is describing the same general concepts that Jesus was teaching His disciples. Paul refers to them as the works of the flesh. He is not saying that any pursuit of a satisfaction of our flesh such as food intake or sexual expression according to God's plan is outside of God's will. No, he is referring to our unsaved status and those pursuits as the *flesh*. Once we have accepted the wonderful Grace of God we receive His Spirit and now have a better lead to follow in the conduct of our affairs during our time on earth. Once saved one must live according to the Spirit of God. Consider our status as given in Romans.

Romans 8:1-2

¹There is therefore now no condemnation to them, which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (KJV).

So even though we are not condemned we must struggle while we are going through the sanctification process while alive. Once we leave the earth we then be Glorified and our Salvation process will be complete. In the mean time Paul shows us what our manner should be with God Spirit living within us.

Galatians 5:22-6:4

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. ²⁴And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk. ²⁶Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another. ⁶ ¹Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. ²Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. ³For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. ⁴But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. ⁵For each man shall bear his own burden (KJV).

We must continue to feed God's Spirit and not the old man with what we take into our minds. God has given us the correct avenues to pursue and we must take them to keep our mind's clean so the Spirit can work in us and not be quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19) or grieved (Ephesians 4:30) so that He takes a secondary position in our lives. We need to feed Him with Bible study, Church, Prayer and other wholesome activities, which starve the old man to keep him in a recessive position in our lives. He will be in us until we are glorified. If we take in too much of the world we will cause the old man to flourish and begin to control us.

NEXT WEEK: MARK: JESUS & THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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