

Out of the Heart

Matthew 15:1

Clean and Unclean

- God taught Israel how to approach him in holiness.
 - Ceremonial
 - Moral
- In their passion for holiness, they went beyond God's word.

Misguided Ritual

- Their approach to God included both actions and speech.
 - They ultimately missed the mark.

Misguided Ritual

- Actions:
 - Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?
 - They don't wash their hand before they eat!

Misguided Ritual

- Speech:
 - These people honor me with their lips
 - but their hearts are far from me.

Misguided Ritual

- They elevated their tradition over the word of God.

Misguided Ritual

- And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?

Misguided Ritual

- God said “honor your father and mother”
- you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition

Misguided Ritual

- They worship me in vain;
 - their teachings are but rules taught by men.

Misguided Ritual

- They focused on outward presentation but missed inner transformation.

Misguided Ritual

- Listen and understand
 - What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean’
 - but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’

Pure Hearts

- We need to approach God on his terms.

Pure Hearts

- Every plant
 - that my heavenly Father has not planted
 - will be pulled up by the roots.

Pure Hearts

- They are blind guides.
 - If a blind man leads a blind man,
 - both will fall into a pit.

Pure Hearts

- The condition of the heart is what matters most.
 - Righteous action and speech flow out of a right heart.

Pure Hearts

- Don't you see
 - whatever goes into the mouth goes into the stomach
 - and then out of the body?

Pure Hearts

- But the things that come out of the mouth come out of the heart
 - these make a man 'unclean'

Pure Hearts

- out of the heart come
 - evil thoughts
 - murder
 - adultery
 - sexual immorality
 - theft
 - false testimony
 - slander

Out of the Heart

- Come to God on his terms.
- Serve him out of a pure heart.