

WHAT DEFILES A MAN

Matthew 15.1-20

OUTER RELIGION

Matthew 15.1-10

The Pharisees had extra man-made traditions that were orally handed down and that were finally codified around 200 A.D. and are called the "Mishnah." These were held in high esteem alongside the Scriptures, but were also used as "loopholes" to get out of biblical commands.

JESUS CALLS OUT RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY

Matthew 15.10-20

What the Pharisees thought was the problem was not really the problem. Jesus shows us that the problem is inside of us, and that it is much bigger than we think.

People that put on a religious show are blind to the problems that they really have.

We do things (or abstain from things) in order to "cover up" and avoid acknowledging the real issue.

What the flesh wants is to be rid of guilt. But Gospel awakened people want to be rid of their sin.

Two things Jesus wants us to see in this passage:

- 1) He is neutralizing, so to speak, some superstitions, religious legalism, and misunderstanding of what actually is sinful and defiling.
- 2) He is showing where it really comes from (and therefore, what the solution is).

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Colossians 2.20-23

We don't need clean hands, we need clean hearts!

Abstinence, rule-following, and self-disciplines won't fix our hearts. We must recognize that Christ alone and the grace He gives is able to clean our hearts. As we become so enamored with the beauty of Christ, our hearts melt at the sight, and we realize how even our most righteous deeds are like filthy rags. It is only then that we put our hope and our trust in His righteousness that has been gifted to us. And it is only then that we live lives of not only freedom, but bold pursuit of His glory in and through our lives.

1 Corinthians 10.31



NOTES:

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Please visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and class for the rest of service.

Our **High School students** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com.

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 15.1-20**. What stuck out to you the most in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Read **Matthew 15.7-9** once more. Why is Jesus calling the Pharisees hypocrites? _____

When speaking with the Pharisees, Jesus does not affirm or even acknowledge their religious activity. Instead, He chooses to bring light to what? Why is this so important? _____

In **Mark 7.1-23**, we see the same story. Specifically looking at verses **18-19**, what does Jesus declare? Jewish law had served its purpose; it shed light on the holiness of God and the barrier (sin) that existed between man and God. So what does Jesus' declaration free us from and why is such a declaration even possible? Read **Galatians 4.8-10**, **Hebrews 9.14**, and **Mark 10.45**. _____

Legalism is the belief that salvation is earned (and/or God's love and good favor is kept) through good works. Adherence to a set of principles is the primary emphasis. The Pharisees were very legalistic in their faith. How can you relate to the Pharisees? Is legalism a struggle for you? Who does legalism really serve? What is the root of your legalistic behavior? Read **John 1.17**. _____

Legalism may be our natural tendency, but it leaves us empty in the end. Read **Matthew 11.28**. How has legalism left you "laboring" or "heavy laden"? What specific examples in your life can you think of? What is the solution for getting rest? _____

What lies are you believing? What is it that you think you NEED to do in order to be "good" before God? How are you like the Pharisees in expecting others to follow *your* rules or laws? _____

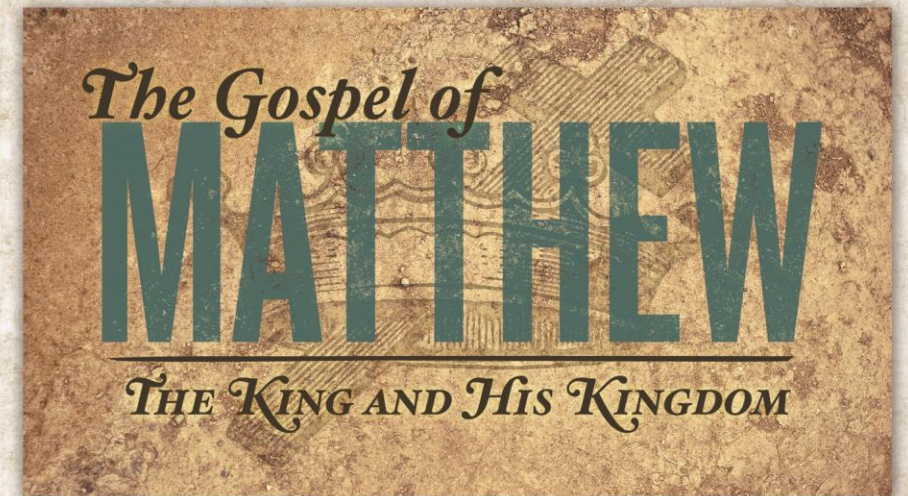
Using the **P.R.A.Y.** model, spend time as a group in prayer. Repent of your legalistic and religious behavior. Ask that your works may be out of the overflow of your heart and that your activities may be motivated by bringing glory to God.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

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Equipping a Gospel-Centered Community in the Word of God,
To Live Out a Gospel-Centered Life Mission to the Glory of God.



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Matthew 15.1-20 // July 5, 2015

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025



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