**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr October 29, 2023**

**Dirty Hands & Bad Hearts**

Matthew 15:1-20

**Key Truth:** Christianity teaches us not to focus all of our time and energy on what is on the outside, it is what is on the inside that matters most.

**Is Washing Your Hands Really That Serious?**

1. The Pharisees were more concerned with outward

 expressions of righteousness than true inner righteousness.

2. The Pharisees placed a higher value on man-made traditions

 over the Bible.

3. Jesus condemned their hypocrisy and their misguided

 allegiance.

**Jesus Gets To The Heart Of The `Matter:**

1. Food consumption was never the issue for the human

 condition.

2. Sin is a heart issue that can only be rectified by Jesus.

 **Jeremiah 17:9**

3. What comes out of the mouth is a direct reflection of the

 heart.

**What We Learn:**

1. Jesus is not about behavior modification.

2. Jesus is about spiritual heart transformation. **Ezekiel 36:26-27,**

 **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

3. We can only receive a new heart by placing our trust in the

 righteousness of Jesus Christ. **John 3:1-8**

4. The Bible is our highest level of authority and is the way in

 which we are to govern our lives. **2 Timothy 3:16**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Pray for a renewed sensitivity to what is in our hearts and the need for repentance. Receive by faith Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have you ever tried any extreme diet fads? If so, which one(s)? What was your experience like with that fad and what motivated you to try it?

What are some of the reasons people obsess over what they eat?

How does the amount of time and energy you invest in your physical health compare with the time and energy you invest in your spiritual health?

Read Matthew 15:10-11 again, which is Jesus’ response to the Pharisee’s question. What was the problem with the Pharisees focusing so much on dietary rules and restrictions?

What did the Pharisees miss as a result?

While Jesus exercised patience with many sinners such as the woman at the well and His disciples, why did He criticize the scribes and Pharisees so harshly?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17: Why is this verse such good news when you think about the things that come out of your mouth and the nature of your heart?

How can a person be defiled by that which comes out of the mouth? Describe how this has proven true in your own life.