

When Rite Is Wrong

Discussion Guide

Text: 7:1-23

OPEN:

1. In your family how were you punished for a “foul mouth”?
2. What’s the most fun you ever had getting dirty?

DIG:

1. What is the issue of debate between the Pharisees and Jesus (vs.1-5)? How does the quote from Isaiah address the issue at hand(vs.6-7)? How would each define what it means to be spiritual?
2. In practice, what authority was more binding for the Pharisees: traditions or God’s commands? Why? How do the Pharisees treat Old Testament law (note the verbs in vs. 9, 13)?
3. Something declared “Corban” meant it was dedicated to God, thus it was no longer able to be given away. What does this illustration show about how traditions twisted the law?
4. How does Jesus’ idea of being unclean differ from that of the Pharisees? What is the source of true uncleanness? Why can’t external things pollute an individual? Define each of the polluting acts that Jesus mentions, (vs.20-22). Where do they originate?

APPLICATION:

1. If food and such don’t pollute because they bypass the heart and go into the stomach and then out the body, what does lodge in the heart and pollute the mind? Give examples.
2. What do you do to root out hypocrisy and preserve integrity, so that “your walk matches your talk”. How do you avoid hypocrisy?
3. What do you like the best that comes from within you? What do you like least? How can you influence what comes from within?
4. Jesus listed many things that can come out of someone’s heart that indicated uncleanness (vs. 21-23). Which of these things do you struggle with the most? How would you tell someone to (or how would you yourself) fight those things in your life?

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