

Creekside Community Church
Matthew: Return of the King
November 12th, 2017
Jeff Bruce, Associate Pastor

Getting to the Heart of Our Problems: Matthew 15:1-20

1. The Symptom (Matthew 15:1-9)

2. The Sickness (Matthew 15:10-20)

3. The Solution

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Name one thing that you find disgusting (e.g. a food, a habit, etc.) that many people would not. Why do you think this particularly thing disgusts you?

Going Deeper

3. Why were Israel's religious leaders concerned about washing and ritual purity (15:1-2)? Why was this issue so significant to them?
4. How does Jesus' challenge the Pharisees' concept of purity (see vv. 11, 17-20)? Why did the disciples also find Jesus' teaching challenging (vv. 12-15)? What are some of the purity codes in our culture (i.e. the kinds of purity people seek)? How does Jesus affirm and/or challenge our desire for purity?
5. According to Jesus, what does the religious leaders' question (v. 2) reveal about the condition of their hearts (v. 8; see also v. 18)? How does Jesus illustrate his point (vv. 3-6)? How did these leaders misread Scripture? What implications does this have for how we read Scripture?

Application

6. According to Jesus' our words reveal the condition of our hearts (see vv. 11, 18; see also Matthew 12:34). Jeff gave several different examples of what words can reveal about our hearts. Which of these stood out to you. Why?
7. Jeff shared a "*fruit-to-root*" process for diagnosing our heart issues. Can you think of a sinful behavior you could examine using the process? In your group, break up into smaller groups of two, and work through this process together.
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?