

“THE HEART OF THE
MATTER IS THE
MATTER OF THE
HEART.”

Matthew 15:1-20

Hear the Call of the Kingdom: Sermon #71

I. The Summons to Heart Religion

- authoritatively called
- Mt. 10:1; 15:10, 32; 18:2
- Acts 6:2
- Acts 5:40

God wants to arrest our attention
and drag it before the tribunal of His
Word!

“I still have many things to say to you
but you cannot bear them now” (John
16:12).

Not all things in Scripture are understandable. Some things are difficult to understand. But this is not one of them.

7

Not difficult to understand, but difficult to **accept**.

8

II. The Scandal of Heart Religion

9

WHY THE SCANDAL?

- We cannot blame anything for our sin; it is all rooted deeply in who we are, our heart.

10

HEART = “FACTORY OF SINS”

- evil thoughts
- murder
- adultery
- sexual immorality
- theft
- false witness
- slander

11

EVIL THOUGHTS

- Any thought that is not positively holy is evil.
- Those who charge guilt upon others for transgressing the commandments of men, many times bring greater guilt upon themselves, by transgressing the law of God against rash judging. Those most defile themselves, who are most forward to censure the defilements of others (Matthew Henry).

12

WHY THE SCANDAL?

- There was not one thing that could be done to render a person clean.
- Jesus' statement is his way of saying, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

13

JESUS' TEACHING

- For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:20)
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Mt. 5:8)

14

THE HEART

- "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways" (Psalm 95:10).
- "Slaves, obey your masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Eph. 6:5-6).
- Hebrews 3:12-13

15

Really, a young Atheist cannot guard his faith too carefully. Dangers lie in wait for him on every side. You must not do, you must not even try to do, the will of the Father unless you are prepared to "know the doctrine."

16

All my acts, desires, and thoughts were to be brought into harmony with the universal Spirit. For the first time I examined myself with a seriously practical purpose.

17

And there I found what appalled me; a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears, a harem of fondled hatreds. My name was legion.

18

WHY THE SCANDAL?

- “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block (scandal) to the Jews. . . (1 Cor. 1:23).
- The scandal of Christ is that there is only ONE external deed that can render anyone clean and that is the work of Christ on the cross!

19

WE HAVE SEEN...

- I. The Summons to Heart Religion
- II. The Scandal of Heart Religion

20

III. The Supernaturalness of Heart Religion

21

“Every plant that my Father has not planted will be rooted up” (Mt. 15:13).

22

THE ONLY LOGICAL RESPONSE IS

the words of the Canaanite Woman:
**“Have mercy on me, O Lord,
Son of David. . .”**

23

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