

Common Sins – Where Sin Hides
Mark 7

Years ago, I had a rude awakening when I read an explanation of the reality that “No One Can Make you angry.”

That idea disrupted my all too frequent statement that “He/she/they make me so mad.”

That was my way of blaming MY ANGER on someone else.

I wasn't my fault. He/she/they MADE ME ANGRY.

When that narrative began to unravel, I had to do some serious soul searching.

If he/she/they don't make me mad, then where does my anger come from? CERTAINLY NOT ME.

Au contraire

I had to deal with a very challenging passage from Mark 7

3 **1** The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, **2** and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. **3** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; **4** and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) **5** The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?”

6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

‘This people honors Me with their lips,

But their heart is far away from Me.

7 But in vain do they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

9 He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. **10** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death’; **11** but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’ **12** you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; **13** thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: **15** there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. **16** [If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.]”

17 When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable.

18 And He *said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, **19** because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) **20** And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. **21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, **22** deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. **23** All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

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THE fallacy of sin – “SOMEONE MADE ME DO IT” the greatest example of ‘misinformation’ in the Christian world. When I saw the lie in my own life I began to notice how often I heard other believers say, “He made me so mad.”

** Note – as a parenting technique it is not popular with your kids

V. 6ff – Jesus shows how sin is a heart issue.

All religions have some sort of ritual for washing or cleansing because we all have a sense that something needs to be cleansed, in society if not in our own lives.

15 **Jesus does not challenge the feeling that we need to get clean. He challenges the method for doing it.**

Rising Tide -John Barry 1927 St. Louis flood – sand boil, such a bad flood that the water pushes in a gets behind the levy system and a geyser shoots up. If water is clear, ok, but if dirty, then it has already eroded the ground and the levy is compromised. All the efforts are in vain.

Brian Habig...There is a river of sorts that seeks to erode our spiritual hearts and it exerts pressure and those around us can feel it. shoots up through anger, shaming, comparison, envy, strife, lusts, addiction, greed, etc

We come up with our own levy systems – disciplines, rituals, lifestyle designs and organizations, yearly or five year goals, etc. Religion is a big system of sandbags.

Jesus shows those are futile. Something is defiled in a systemic way. What is it?

What is it that works against us? What do we do about it.

17

Jesus contrasts the outside vs the inside.

1 Sam 16:7 Man looks at outer appearance, but God looks at the heart – thoughts, will, feelings,

Jesus challenges the outside rituals of the Jews. The Torah Police – Pharisees and scribes follow an oral tradition beyond what is written. They put up buffer fences to keep us from breaking the law of God.

Ex: It is sinful to eat pretzels. Why? Because that leads to drinking beer

Jesus shows they are excessive and external.

The tradition exceeded the Law, went beyond it. V. 8

v. 9 Hold to tradition of men

Tradition to care for parents is distorted. “Given to God”

v. 13 void the word of God.

EXTERNAL traditions

v. 6 Hypocrites – Greek theatre – mask wearer.

Jesus is opposed to mask wearing – Matt 23

Do we not see ourselves as mask wearers? Are there things we do to put on a good public front?

Ex: We should note that there is no specific posture of prayer that is commanded in scripture, i.e. eyes closed, head bowed, etc, BUT we are commanded to pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, and pray for our enemies. If we make a tradition of a certain posture or place of prayer but are cursing our enemies in our heart, then we are acting more like the Pharisees that Jesus describes. Our external traditions or rituals are just a mask that we put on.

EX: CROSS groups are designed to help us get beyond the masks that we might wear. Some of you may feel pushed out of your comfort zone. I hope you’ve seen that it’s ok. The Gospel tends to do that to us and FOR US. Our ‘comfort zone’ can easily become a levy or sandbag that we think will keep the internal river in line.

19 **THE FRUIT REFLECTS THE ROOT – sin is an inside job – rooted in our hearts**

What goes in does not defile v. 15

The internet and social media do not insert lust or outrage into us. THEY DON'T MAKE US do anything or respond in a certain way. They are the occasion for what is in us to be released.

EX: What comes out of tube of toothpaste when it is squeezed? Whatever is inside. So with us.

Families don't insert anger in us.

Schools don't insert disrespect or bad behavior

Ex: it's the influence of those other kids, it's not MY little angel – so say too many parents the Success of friends in their jobs or marriages doesn't insert jealousy or envy in our hearts.

Busyness doesn't insert neglect of God and His word.

What is inside defiles us v. 6, 20 The heart

What comes out is what defiles us. All of those things come from within.

The things Jesus listed are common sins. Why else list them?

They are not of faith. they don't glorify God.

They reflect where our hearts go when we aren't satisfied with God.

Do you see yourself in that list? Maybe, maybe not?

Do those who know you best see any of those in you?

Note the final two things that Jesus mentions are "pride and foolishness".

This may not be the intent of the passage, but it seems to me that all the evil things that are listed would fit under the categories of Pride and/or Foolishness.

Pride Same root word – haughty Prov 16:18

'pride' 1x 'proud' 5 x

21 Pride will take us down because it set us up to be opposed by God – James 4 ; 1 Pet 5:5-7

"God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Pride does not come from the outside. It's already there.

22 CS LEWIS ON PRIDE

The great vice is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility

According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

23 I pointed out a moment ago that the more pride one had, the more one disliked pride in others.

In fact, if you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, 'How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronize me, or show off?'

24 **. Now what you want to get clear is that Pride is essentially competitive – is competitive by its very nature. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.**

We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If someone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest.

EX: we look down on others or think “I’m glad I’m not like him, her, them” because of pride
In reality, we are most likely guilty of the same thing.

26 EX; the person pulled over on the highway – IT COULD HAVE, SHOULD HAVE BEEN US. The cop
could pull us over and we could give reasons why even if he doesn’t know.
LEWIS...

27 In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself.
Unless you know God as that—and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison—you do not know
God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God.
A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking
down, you cannot see something that is above you.

SO WHERE DO WE Go from here?

The word for wash is baptize – washing with water.

Jesus is the great baptizer who washes with the Holy Spirit. Has he washed you? Do you believe it?

Rock of Ages – be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from it’s guilt and power.

Do you know the washing of guilt and the power of sin?

He breaks the power of that river of sin.

When He has broken the power of guilt, then we no longer have to do our own spin to try to convince
others that we’re clean. Breaking the power of guilt and sin leads to humility which puts us in the place of
receiving grace from God. 1 Pet 5:5-7

29 “God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.”Humble yourselves under the mighty
hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your care upon Him, because He cares for you.”

Calling out to God in prayer is an expression of Humility that opens us up to receive the grace that God
gives. Proud people don’t get that grace because they don’t see the need for Grace.

What is the movement of grace? It is to shine light on what once lived in darkness.

31 Jn 8:12ff The movement of grace is a PERSON to whom we flee. Jesus is grace incarnate.

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk
in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

32 Tripp- New Morning Mercies – Feb 14th

33 Grace shatters our darkness. Grace explodes on us with penetrating, heart-exposing light. Grace
illuminates our dank hallways and our dark corners. The Son of grace shines the light of his grace into the
darkest recesses of our hearts, not as an act of vengeance or punishment, but as a move of forgiving,
transforming, and delivering grace. He dispels our self-inflicted darkness because he knows that we
cannot grieve what we do not see, we cannot confess what we have not grieved, and we cannot turn from
what we haven’t confessed.

Martin Luther wrote to Philip Melanchthon in August of 1521, exhorting him to preach a true mercy, not
an imaginary mercy. But true mercy must be preached in the context of true, not imaginary, sin. God
saves real sinners, not imaginary sinners. Luther concluded his letter: “Pray hard for you are quite a
sinner.”

Friends, TAKE HEART AND BE ENCOURAGED.

We have a real savior for real sin and real sinners. The core of sin is our own proud hearts.

God sent His Son and His Spirit to give us grace so we may walk HUMBLY before Him in repentant faith.

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you from the text or the sermon?

Was there anything new or unexpected?

What broken world problem does this passage address?

“He /she makes me so angry” Is that something you have said or thought?

Agree or Disagree: Why? “No one can make you angry”

In what way do you see pride as a competition in your own life?

1 Pet 5 How do we apply this to our sin when it pops up?

“God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.”Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your care upon Him, because He cares for you.”

Why is our own sin so hard to see or admit?