

**Home Bible Study Guide: BBC – 5/5/24 – “13 Defilers & 2 Cleansers” – Mark 7:20-23**

In **Mark chpt 7** (also recorded in *Matthew 15*) Jesus has a discussion with 3 groups of people about a Jewish hand-washing custom:

- Who were the 3 groups (vs. 1, 14, and 17)?

Jesus responded to the first group who came to Him by quoting Isaiah 29:13:

- What point was Jesus trying to make with this first group?
- Was Jesus harsh with this group?

Jesus responded to the second group who He called to Himself by reciting a 1-verse parable (vs. 15):

- What was the point of Jesus' parable?
- Nothing entering a man directly defiles him spiritually;
  - but what must we guard ourselves from intake, that could lead to behavior of defilement?

Jesus responded to the third group who approached in a house him privately about His parable:

- Why was Jesus surprised to hear the question of the third group?
- Could this third group be representative of a dull-of-hearing New Testament Church?

In verses 21-22 of Mark ch.7, Jesus lists 13 things that come forth from men's hearts that defile him:

- What are those 13 things? (compare with the 7 things mentioned in Matthew's parallel passage 15:19)
- Also compare these 13 defilers with the 10 Commandments, listed in Exodus 20:3-17
  - Can you distinguish which commandments are direct offenses to God, and which to fellow man?

Jesus offers two provisions for cleansing from defilement:

- What's the first cleansing provision mentioned in these passages? 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 2:13
- What's the second cleansing provision mentioned in these passages? John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26

What did we suggest in Sunday's message is the before/after salvation distinction in these two provisions?

- First the Tabernacle's blood-sprinkled Altar of burnt sacrifice, then
- The Laver of water for washing – (both required before the Priests could enter into the Tabernacle)

How does Revelation 12:11 describe what causes believers to overcome Satan (the Accuser of the brethren)?

- The Blood of the Lamb does what for us?
- The Water of the Word does what for us?

What does all this teach us about how we ought to live our lives before God and as His witnesses before men?

- God doesn't expect us to be able to live right before Him solely by our own power;
- Through Jesus Christ's provision are made overcomers!