



TRINITY
CHURCH

Sermon Discussion Guide

May 15, 2022

Matthew 15:1-20

Read the sermon text (Matthew 15:1-20) together and briefly summarize the main points of the sermon (see outline below). Recapping the sermon text and sermon outline can be a helpful way to start the group, even if everyone did hear the sermon. If someone did not hear the sermon, at least they have now heard the text, or part of the text...

Pure Life

Matthew 15:1-20

Sermon Thought: A pure life can only be found through a relationship with Jesus.

Sermon Outline:

1. Obedience is a matter of the heart (15:1-6)
 1. Reject the fixation on rules.
2. Worship is a matter of the heart (15:7-14)
 1. Reject the fixation on ritual.
3. Purity is a matter of the heart (15:15-20)
 1. Reject the fixation on wrong desires.

Sermon Discussion questions

*After briefly reviewing the message outline and text, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas. 1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your home group, **select the questions that will best help you frame the group’s discussion** of this sermon and sermon text. Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question... And feel free to craft some of your own questions.*

1. “Prime the Pump” question—do you remember when you first had or became aware of “bottled water?” Do you drink your bottled water cold or room temp?
2. Was there anything in the sermon or the text that stood out to you?
3. Read Matthew 15:1-6, and 12:1-8. What do both of these stories have in common? What do these stories reveal about the Pharisees’ hearts?
4. The Pharisees tried to find God’s approval by creating and following “extra-biblical” rules, and then judging people who did not follow the rules. Can you think of some examples of “extra-biblical” rules that Christians might create today? Why do you think each these rules is created?

5. Read John 14:15. How can obedience become an act of love for you, and not a reluctant obligation?
6. Worship is a matter of the heart, not just following a set of rituals or traditions. Read these verses from Isaiah, and discuss. What rituals did these people participate in? How did God feel about those rituals and why?
 1. Isaiah 1:11-17
 2. Isaiah 29:13
7. Talk about some of the "traditions" or "rituals" of Trinity Church. How can you participate as an act of loving worship in each of these, making sure that it doesn't just become an empty ritual? Example: singing worship songs, listening to a sermon, attending home group, tithes and offerings, communion, VBS, etc.
8. Read Psalm 15:1-5. When someone worships from the heart, what character qualities will they demonstrate?
9. Read 15:12-14, Jesus' description of the religious leaders. How does this challenge you if you ever hold a position of leadership in church or ministry? Why is it so important for leaders to worship and follow Jesus from the heart?
10. Read 15:10-11. Jesus lays the groundwork in this passage to declare all food as "clean," which officially happens in Peter's vision in Acts 10. If unclean food doesn't defile a person, then why do you think the Law of Moses prohibited eating certain kinds of food? Why would God have asked his people to obey the dietary laws?
11. What comes out of a person reveals what is in their heart. What does each of these sinful behaviors reveal about the sinful heart from which it comes? What does it reveal about the desires or thought process of the person who commits the sin?
 1. Evil thoughts
 2. Murder
 3. Adultery
 4. Sexual immorality
 5. Theft
 6. False witness
 7. Slander/Blasphemy
12. How do you fight against wrong desires? (The ones listed above, or others)
13. The only way our heart can be transformed and cleansed from evil is through a relationship with Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18. Can you name an example of something that God has been "cleansing" you from? Something he is transforming in your life?
14. If your heart does not desire to pursue a relationship with Jesus, what can be done to build that desire?
15. Why do you think that God wanted you to see/hear this passage today?