First, there are six plural nouns (in Gr.) depicting **wicked acts** viewed individually: sexual immorality (porneiai, "illicit sexual activities of various kinds"); theft (klopai); murder (phonoi); adultery (moicheiai, illicit sexual relations by a married person); greed (pleonexiai, "covetings"), insatiable cravings for what belongs to another; malice (poneriai, "wickednesses"), the many ways evil thoughts express themselves. Second, there are six singular nouns depicting **evil dispositions:** deceit (dolos), cunning maneuvers designed to ensnare someone for one's personal advantage; lewdness (aselgeia; cf. Rom 13:13; Gal 5:19; Eph 4:19; 2 Peter 2:2,7), unrestrained and unconcealed immoral behavior; envy (opthalmosponeros, lit., "an evil eye," a Heb. expression for stinginess; cf. Prov 23:6), a begrudging, jealous attitude toward the possessions of others; slander (blasphemia), injurious or defaming speech against God or man; arrogance (hyperephania, used only here in the NT), boastfully exalting oneself above others who are viewed with scornful contempt; and folly (aphrosyne), moral and spiritual insensitivity. (The New Testament Bible Knowledge Commentary, PC Study Bible Software)

 **C. The Clarification (V. 23).** *23 All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"* (NIV)

All evil action begins with a single thought. Allowing our minds to dwell on lust, envy, hatred, or revenge will lead to sin. Don’t defile yourself by focusing on evil. Instead, follow Paul’s advice in Philippians 4:8 and think about what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. (Life Application Study Bible, Page 1747)

The IMAGES you see and the WORDS you hear will determine the THOUGHTS you think; the thoughts you think will determine the EMOTIONS you feel, and the emotions you feel will determine the DECISIONS you make, and the decisions you make will determine the ACTIONS you take, and the actions you take will become your HABITS, and your habits will determine the CHARACTER you create, and your character will determine your DESTINY and your destiny will become your LEGACY. (Rev. Amos L. Lewis)

**III. CLOSE –** Remember, the law couldn’t fix us. It’s like a mirror. It can tell you what’s wrong but it can’t fix what’s wrong (Rom. 3:20-24). Well, unlike the law, Jesus knows what’s wrong with you and He can fix it.

# *RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

***2800 E. 36th Street***

#### Tucson, AZ 85713

## *Sermon Notes*

## *May 3, 2015*

***It’s An Inside Job***

***Mark 7:14-23***

**Sermon Notes:** [www.risingstarbaptist.org](http://www.risingstarbaptist.org)

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***Vision: A Local Church with a Global Reach***

***Motto: One Mind, One Heartbeat, One Direction.***

## *Rev. Amos L. Lewis*

***Senior Pastor***

**It’s An Inside Job**

**Mark 7:14-23**

**I. INTRODUCTION –** One thing I’ve learned about being a Christian it is not so much about doing but being. God realized we couldn’t do what was required in the Law of Moses. In fact, God gave us the law to show us His standard of holiness. Of course, we failed miserably in living up to the standard. However, that’s good news because the law was never designed to save us (Gal. 3:19-24). God gave us the law to prove to us we couldn’t keep it. The problem wasn’t the law but us. The law was contrary to our sinful nature. In fact, the harder you try to keep the law, the more your flesh will rebel. God has never been interested in external religion but internal righteousness. God is looking at the heart and not just our hands. He sent Jesus to fulfill the requirements of the law and become a sin offering for us so His righteousness might be imputed to our account (2 Cor. 5:21). All of this happened because of grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). In addition, we were given the Holy Spirit so we can produce the fruit of the Spirit which is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (NIV, Gal. 5:22-23).

**II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT**

 **A. The Proclamation (Vs. 14-15).**  **Jesus proclaims the true regarding food and righteousness.** *14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"*

**Specific food regulations** were given in the OT, but the religious leaders had developed many other regulations as part of their oral tradition. This process had progressed to the point that some religious leaders believed righteousness and unrighteousness could be determined by food eaten. Jesus condemned this belief because it obscured the real issue---that the heart, not food, is the source of uncleanness. (The Woman’s Study Bible, Page 1658)

 **B. The Explanation (Vs. 17-22). Jesus explains to the disciples and religious leaders the difference the stomach and the heart.**

 **1. The Intake (Vs. 17-19).** *17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. 18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.").*

Since food is merely physical, no one who eats it will defile his heart or inner person, which is spiritual. Physical pollution, no matter how corrupt, cannot cause spiritual or moral pollution. Neither can eternal ceremonies and rituals cleanse a person spiritually. (The MacArthur Study Bible, Page 1474)

There were no parentheses in the original Greek manuscript of this Gospel. But if we didn’t consider then sentence, “As a result, He made all foods clean,” to be Mark’s comment and not a part of Peter’s speech, then we would have to wonder why Peter needed the vision and the visit to the home of Cornelius (Acts 10) to get the message. But here Mark is writing with 20/20 hindsight in the C.A.D. 60s, based on Peter’s testimony. Jesus’ words regarding foods was one of many teachings the disciples failed to grasp in the period before Jesus’ death and resurrection. (The Apologetics Study Bible, Page 1480)

 **2. The Output (Vs. 20-22).** **Jesus gives us a partial list sins that comes out of the heart to prove His point.** *20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.*

Jesus teaches that the true source of defilement is not merely a disregard for external rituals or dietary laws, but the motives and actions of an unregenerate heart. (The Spirit Filled Life Bible, Page 1415)

The general term translated evil thoughts precedes the verb in the Greek text and is viewed as the root of various evils which follow. Evil thoughts generated in a heart unite with one's will to produce evil words and actions. The catalog of evil Jesus gave has a strong Old Testament flavor and consists of 12 items.