

***Following the Good News about Jesus, ICB 2011***  
**The Gospel of Mark, Chapters 1-8**  
**“For Further Reflection, two pages”**  
**Manuscript Study**  
**April 17 2011**

**From Mark 7:1-23**

**Title:** The Not So Secret Work of Christ IN the Disciple

**Focus of Message from this Section**

The Pharisees and teachers of the law developed intricate traditions to guide one’s external behaviour. They had rules for everything. However, they neglected the inner life, which is the priority concern of Christ. As we journeyed into this part of the good news about Jesus, we saw that while humans tend to focus on outward behaviours that define one’s righteousness over against others, Jesus focuses on the inner life of the disciple. In doing this not so secret work, Jesus shows the disciple their deep need for forgiveness and the rich opportunity to give evidence to the transforming power of the good news IN one’s heart. May God transform our hearts!!

**For Further Reflection**

1. Jesus is deeply burdened by what comes out of the human heart. What are ways you see this burden is expressed through this passage? Note especially the way Jesus responds to the Pharisees and teachers of the law when they critique the disciples of Jesus AND the way Jesus speaks to the disciples when they want further clarification on the parable he told the crowds
2. The “tradition of the elders” in this passage is referring to the “Corban” (i.e. “offering” in Leviticus 1:2) , which then had attached to it the importance of a vow (see Numbers 30:1-2), and took priority over other laws. From the passage, what did Jesus say they missed by this approach to Scripture?
3. Notice the repetition of the phrase, “What comes out of a person is what defiles, ruins, and pollutes them” (7:15, 18, 29, 23). How might you write Jesus main point from these words in your own way?
4. In the message, I gave others words to describe what comes out of the heart (see below). As you look at this list and as you think of the call of Jesus to “repent and believe the good news,” what response do you find in yourself?

Twelve Specific Evil Thoughts:

- Sexual immorality – obscenities, lusts, vulgar deeds
- Theft – stealing

- Murder – killing, desiring harm to another
- Adultery – unfaithfulness in marriage, looking lustfully, possessiveness
- Greed – self-indulgence, desire for more and more and more for oneself
- Malice – hatred, spite, nastiness, cruelty
- Deceit – dishonesty, cheating, trickery, deceptive dealing
- Lewdness – rudeness, carousing, partying, indecent conduct
- Envy – mean looks, an evil eye, wanting for oneself what another has
- Slander – malicious representation, abusive, evil speaking
- Arrogance – uplifted heart against God and humans
- Folly – lack of sense, reckless, thoughtless

**5. What other good news about Jesus have you come to see from this section?**

