

June 5, 2011

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## Monday

Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed ..."

Matt. 7:17 "Every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit."

That which comes out of your heart is often reflective of that which you feed your soul. The lunchroom was right. "You are what you eat." If you feed upon good spiritual nourishment it will be revealed in your words and thoughts. If you are spending your days gazing at pornography you are filling your heart with lust. If you spend your time reflecting upon God's grace, blessing, and word you will be filled with gracious words, blessed attitudes, and a firm foundation. What you read, watch, and think upon will change your life. What are you feeding your heart?

## Tuesday

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."

You must deal with the root and the fruit! If the fruit of your tongue is poison, if the fruit of your actions is evil, if the fruit of your attitude is contentious, recognize that God is not pleased and wants you to change. But don't make the mistake of simply thinking you will reform your tongue, or curb your actions. You must deal with the root if you desire righteous fruit. Simply cutting off the bad stuff is not really accomplishing the plan of God. Ask God to change you from the root and the fruit will manifest itself correctly. Get your heart right and the rest will follow.

## Wednesday

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

The devil *did not* make you do it! You accomplished it on your own. His skill at temptation is obvious, but temptation wins because the heart is not right. Don't use the devil as an excuse for your poor behavior, words, or attitude. He may orchestrate the test, trial, and temptation but what comes out of you simply shows what resides in you. Be anxious to repent. Be ready to confess. Be willing to recognize your own failure instead of blaming the devil or another. Then ask God to grow you in His likeness and give attention to growing His attitude in yourself.

## Thursday

Psa. 14:2 The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men  
To see if there are any who understand, **Who seek after God.**

Be proactive in your plan for growth. Determine that you will seek after God's work in your heart. Don't simply hope for it. Are you sitting back and waiting for God to pour grace or faith or wisdom into your soul? That is not true discipleship. A disciple is ready to learn and aggressive in his/her desire for growth. Make a plan. Take notes in worship. Consciously, conscientiously apply God's teaching to your life. Read quality works of devotion. Study your bible. Don't sit back waiting to be fed like a baby in a highchair. Get some food out of the cooler and feast.

## Friday

Mark 7:5 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?"

Is your religion outward or inward? Is it about what you do or who you are? Sure, what you do is important; it probably reveals who you are. But true religion is not about outward symbols, rule keeping, or 'cups washed'. True religion is about faith in God. It is about the change that God is making in you from the inside out. We are too easily caught up in the things of outward religion, and if we are not careful such things take over our concept of godliness, righteousness, and faith. We become hypocrites, legalist, and judgmental. What happens outwardly is important, but what is happening inwardly is the true measure of knowing God.