

The Heart of the Matter

Theme: Jesus teaches us that defilement before God is a heart matter, and only Christ can cleanse sinful hearts through his saving work.

I. The hypocrisy of lip-service toward God v.1-8

- A. Man's tedious traditions falsely defining piety v.1-5
- B. Vain traditions that pull away from heart devotion to God v.6-8

II. The perversion of setting aside God's Word for man's v.9-13

- A. Arrogant elevation of man's traditions over God's Law v.9
- B. Twisting God's Law to set aside its demand for love v.10-13

III. The truth about what defiles a person v.14-23

- A. Defilement parable: 'what goes in' vs. 'what comes out' v.14-15
- B. Parable's meaning: defilement comes from your heart v.17-23

IV. The truth about what cleanses the defiled

- A. Christ alone has kept the Law of God from the heart
- B. Christ alone fulfills the Law's demand for love
- C. Christ alone can cleanse defiled hearts

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