

The Heart of the Matter

Matthew 14:32-15:28

6/3/12

Isaiah 29:9 Be delayed and wait. Blind yourselves and be blind. They become drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with strong drink.

¹⁰ For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers.

¹¹ And the entire vision shall be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, "Please read this," he will say, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

¹² Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."

¹³ Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,

¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the discernment of their discerning men shall be concealed."

¹⁵ Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"

¹⁶ You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, That what is made should say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Matthew 14:33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

³⁴ And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick;

³⁶ and they *began* to entreat Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched *it* were cured.

15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying,

² "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

³ And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

⁴ "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.'

⁵ "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to *his* father or mother, "Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given *to God*,"

⁶ he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *thus* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

⁷ "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,

⁸ "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

⁹ "But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men."

¹⁰ And after He called the multitude to Him, He said to them, "Hear, and understand.

¹¹ "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."

¹² Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"

¹³ But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up.

¹⁴ "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ And Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain the parable to us."

¹⁶ And He said, "Are you still lacking in understanding also?"

¹⁷ "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?"

¹⁸ "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man."

¹⁹ "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

²⁰ "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

²¹ And Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²² And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region, and *began* to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."

²³ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came to *Him* and kept asking Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting out after us."

²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵ But she came and *began* to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

²⁶ And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

²⁷ But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

The heart of worship includes:

1. Spirit

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

²⁴ "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Philippians 3:3 for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Matthew 23:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

Psalms 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

2. Truth

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

²⁴ "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

2 Samuel 12:20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped.

Acts 5:40 And they took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them to speak no more in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them.

⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

3. Faith

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them," *He then says*,

¹⁷ "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

¹⁹ Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

²¹ and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God,

²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.