

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

Similar stories: Luke 20:13- 21:4, Matthew 22:15-46

Greatest Commandment: Deuteronomy 6:1-8, Luke 10:25-28, Matthew 22:34-40,

Heart: Psalm 51:10-11, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 34:18, Matthew 5:8

Submission to authority: Romans 13:1-10, Hebrews 13:17, Titus 3:1

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ What are some ways people today avoid facing the truth about Jesus?
- ❖ List some “safe” or camouflaged sins that people hold on to and keep in their “gardens of sin”? (envy masked as admiration, greed masked as hard work, gossip masked as concern for people, etc)
- ❖ When Jesus gets close to our “gardens of sin” what are some ways we push Him away? Why do we hold on to those pet sins?
- ❖ Consider some ways that we can identify those sins. How can we uproot them?
- ❖ Ponder what role the Word, the Holy Spirit and fellow believers currently have in your fight against sin. What role does the Bible say they should have in our fight against sin?
- ❖ A right heart must come before right actions, according to Titus 3:4-7 how do we change our heart if we see that it is not right?

Looking Forward: Mark 13:1-24

Gospel of Mark

Matters of the Heart



Mark 12:13-44

Looking Back: Psalm 118

List some reasons the religious leaders are angry with Jesus:

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Loving God with your actions

- ❑ Submission to authority is difficult for us. Especially now, when we're struggling with our own governing authorities. You may dislike how the federal or local government is handling the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - ❑ Jesus teaches that in things that aren't in opposition to the kingdom of God- we're supposed to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's."
 - ❑ Instead of raging and struggling against the limitations that are in place, we can devote ourselves to prayers for wisdom for those in authority and encouraging the people around us.
- ❑ How do we react in times of correction? Reflect on ways that you may be defensive. Receiving correction is at best humbling and at worst embarrassing.
 - ❑ In what ways can you reframe your reactions to correction from others to be more gracious, loving and accepting?
- ❑ When you read Rom. 6:22a "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God..." what is your reaction? Do you fight against the idea of being a slave to God? If so, why?

Loving God with your heart

- ❑ If we understand that without Jesus and the Holy Spirit, our hearts would never choose Kingdom things (Jeremiah 17:9) we should be humbled. As you seek God in His word this week

- ❑ Read 1 Samuel 30. In vs 21-24 you see a glimpse of David's heart. (1 Samuel 13:14 refers to him as a man after God's own heart) Here is a perfect opportunity for David to do what is right in man's eyes and have no mercy on those who couldn't earn their wives and possessions back. After all, he would have been justified as the anointed king of Israel. Instead, we see a heart like God's that gives grace and foreshadows the salvation of Jesus (that we did not deserve and could not earn). Spend some time humbling your heart and thanking God for this gift

Loving God with your mind

- Things that are temporary - money, power, status - are not important. It is more valuable to look to things that are eternal - that which has been touched by God. It's easy to latch onto the things of this world because for now we can hold onto them. We trick ourselves into believing they are important because they make us feel good. Pull away from that. Know what is truly valuable. Realize that it is only what God has touched, what He cares about, is worth holding on to.

Want to look deeper?

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."

Throughout the scriptures there is a theme of people giving "lip service" to God, but their true intent isn't to love or worship God. Read through a few of these passages:

Isa 29:13-16; Eze 33:30-32; Matt 7:13-23; Acts 5:1-11, 28:23-28; 2 Tim 3:1-5, 4:10-11; Titus 1:10-16