**Reflections-08-20-17**

Sin, Cleansing, Self-reflection

*“Have you scrubbed your heart?”*

Matthew 15:10-28

1. The Pharisees of the first century felt that what went into the mouth defiled a person, so they had dietary rules, hand washing rules and other ceremonial practices. Jesus says, “It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” What are some of “the rules” that our modern day Pharisees create that remind you of these first century standards? i.e. drinking, smoking, dancing, card playing
2. Jesus said that what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. How does one know if their heart is inflected?
3. We like people who are “clean” on the outside, but do you think we are as picky about people being clean on the inside?
4. Jesus said, that out of heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness and slander. If that is the case, how high a priority do you think cleansing the heart should be for us? How do you cleanse your heart?
5. Pastor Glen talked about “looking into a mirror” as a place to start when it comes to cleansing the heart. Do you agree that we need to get our own house in order before we can be helpful to others? How does one determine the condition of one’s heart?

**Matthew 15:10-28**

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, ‘Listen and understand: 11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.’ 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?’ 13He answered, ‘Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.\* And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.’ 15But Peter said to him, ‘Explain this parable to us.’ 16Then he said, ‘Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.’

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ 24He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ 26He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ 27She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ 28Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly