WHAT DEFILES A PERSON

Matthew 14:34–15:20

Key Verse: 15:11

1. Where did Jesus and his disciples go, what happened when they landed there, and why? (14:34,35; see verse 14) What did people believe about Jesus, and why? (36; cf. 9:20–22)
2. For what did the religious leaders criticize Jesus’ disciples, and why? (1–2; cf. 12:2) How did Jesus rebuke them back? (3–6) Why did the Pharisees encourage people to make gifts “devoted to God” rather than to help their needy parents? What’s the difference between obeying God’s word and manipulating it?
3. For what else did Jesus rebuke the religious leaders? (7–9) How is religious hypocrisy described here? How does following human rules and religious traditions instead of God’s word make us like this? How can our hearts be close to God? (Ps119:11)
4. Read verses 10–11; compare with verse 2. What does it mean to be “defiled”? In what ways do people today worry about being “defiled”? Why should we be more concerned about what comes out of our mouths? (cf. Jas3:2–12)
5. Why did Jesus not worry about offending the Pharisees? (12–14; cf. 13:36–43) How did he explain to his disciples what he meant? (15–20; cf. 12:33–37; Jer17:9) How can our deceitful, dirty hearts be purified? (Eph3:17; 1Pe1:22; Heb10:22; 13:9)