

3. The Cure for the Quest

- ◆ We shouldn't look **within ourselves** for our cleanliness. We have to look **outside** of ourselves for our cleansing.

- ◆ Our **cleanliness** was given to us in Christ - two thousand years ago!

- ◆ It's important to pursue holiness and live a Godly life, but remember, that's not where our cleanliness comes from; pursuing holiness is a **reaction** and **response** to the cleanliness given to us in Christ.

- ◆ This cleansing is only found in the **blood of Christ** - outside of us - and is given free of charge to those who **by faith believe** in Christ.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) Explain in your own words what it means to be holy.

- 2) Have there been times in your life when your "pursuit" of holiness has actually gotten in the way of what truly makes you holy?

- 3) Martin Luther found comfort in the words of Paul from Romans 3:21-24. Discuss as a group what this wonderful truth of Scripture means to you.

- 4) Max Lucado once wrote, *"There is only one name under heaven that has the power to save, and that name is not yours."* (from "In the Grip of Grace"). In light of the teaching of Jesus in Mark 7, how is the modern world apt to respond to such a statement? How do we respond?



Redeeming Notes

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Mark 7:1-23

5) When you come to a worship service, what does it mean for you to hear the words, *"I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins..."* spoken by the pastor?

6) How do communion and baptism illustrate the cross of Christ and the cleansing that we receive?

7) What does it mean to you to know that *"God wants you to look at yourself as if you were actually as perfect as Jesus Christ"*?

8) How should our lives reflect this reality?

"Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean." Mark 7:14b-15

◆ It's not the **external** or **outside** appearance that matters, it's the cleanliness and desires of the heart that truly make a person holy.

1. The Quest for Cleanliness

◆ What we shouldn't do, however, is base our cleanliness on **our efforts**.

2. Jesus' Response to the Quest

◆ Jesus is saying that instead of worrying about what you're doing and what's outside of you - look at what's **inside** you.