

HOW GOD SEES SIN

MARK 7:14-23

Interim Teaching Pastor/Elder Joe Bennett ■ Grace Bible Church ■ February 8, 2026

I. Don't see your sin how people see it. (14-19)

1. We see sin as _____
(15)

2. We fail to see _____
(17-18)

3. We see sin as _____
(18b-19)

II. See your sin as God sees it. (20-23)

1. God sees sin as _____
(20-21)

2. God sees _____
(21-22)

3. God sees sin as _____ (23)

Mark 7:14-23

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."

¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled? (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

- 1) Looking at your spiritual life this week, where have you been focusing on “fixing the backyard” (outward behavior, looking busy, religious performance) while ignoring a “leak” in the kitchen (internal bitterness, secret pride, or lack of love)?
- 2) Read Matthew 23:25-26. Why does Jesus call the Pharisees “hypocrites” in this passage, and how does his “cup and plate” analogy mirror the parable in Mark 7:15?
- 3) Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How does this promise from God connect to our passage today and provide hope for someone who feels “stuck” in their sin?
- 4) Read James 1:14-15. How does this passage describe the “birth” of a sinful action? What sins in your life are you tempted to blame on “external circumstances” instead of your own heart?
- 5) The sermon referenced Deuteronomy 10:16 and 30:6—the idea that God must “circumcise” or cut away the stubbornness of our hearts so we can live. If you prayed the prayer of Psalm 139 (“Search me, O God, and know my heart”) right now, what is one “secret thing” or “disordered affection” you think the Holy Spirit might bring to the surface for healing?
- 6) How should seeing sin from God’s perspective instead of a human perspective change the way that we do accountability and help one another fight besetting sins?
- 7) When was the last time someone (a spouse, friend, or even coworker) pointed out a sin in you that you were completely blind to? How did you respond?
- 8) If you truly believed that Jesus already paid the “eternal cost” for your “embarrassing” sins, how would that change your life this week? How would it change your prayer life? The way you interact at small group? The way you speak to your spouse?