

WHO IS THIS MAN?

## **THE ENEMY WITHIN**

Mark 7:14-23      Jeff Schreve

*"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23*

**Are you addressing the wrong enemy?**

**1. Religion focuses on external things.**

*"Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man." Mark 7:14-15*

A. Judaism said defilement came from the outside in.

B. Jesus said defilement comes from the inside out.

*But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. Luke 11:39*

**2. Religion says man is basically good and can earn salvation.**

A. Man is desperately wicked.

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9 KJV*

B. Man cannot produce anything but filth and defilement.

*For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. Isaiah 64:6*

C. Man is in serious trouble!

**3. Jesus came to address the real problem.**

A. The unsaved heart is full of evil acts and evil attitudes.

**B. The repentant, believing heart is made new.**

*I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be clean and acceptable to me. I will wash away everything that makes you unclean, and I will remove your disgusting idols. I will take away your stubborn heart and give you a new heart and a desire to be faithful. You will have only pure thoughts, because I will put my Spirit in you and make you eager to obey my laws and teachings. You will once again live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:25-28 CEV*

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

- \* Do you understand that you are in serious trouble?
- \* Do you understand that you cannot fix this trouble?
- \* Have you really turned to Jesus and received a new heart?