

**INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**  
**Text: Matthew 15**  
**Subject: "Blind leaders of the Blind"**

**17 DECEMBER 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

*<sup>10</sup> When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand:*

*<sup>11</sup> Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

*<sup>12</sup> Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"*

*<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.*

*<sup>14</sup> Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."*

*<sup>15</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us."*

*<sup>16</sup> So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding?*

*<sup>17</sup> Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?*

*<sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.*

*<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

*<sup>20</sup> These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*

*Matthew 15:10-20*

1. What really defiles a person?

- a) To the scribes and Pharisees, it is eating with unwashed hands
- b) They insist that the ritualistic washing of the hand must be upheld

2. True defilement

- a) It is not what goes into a person that defiles
- b) It is what comes out from a person that truly defiles

3. The Concern of the Disciples

- a) That the Lord Jesus had offended the scribes and Pharisees
- b) They were upset and angry with the Lord Jesus
  - i) He had disagreed with their teachings
  - ii) He had pointed out their hypocrisy
  - iii) He had publicly exposed them as poor leaders

4. The response of the Lord Jesus

- a) The Disciples must not be bothered by the reaction of the scribes and Pharisees
- b) He described them as:
  - i) Blind leaders
  - ii) Those who listened to them were blind followers
  - iii) They will fall into a ditch
- c) He also declared the scribes and Pharisees
  - i) They were not planted by the Father

- ii) They will be uprooted
- 5. The Disciples were surprised by these candid remarks by the Lord Jesus
  - a) They asked the Lord to explain
  - b) Most people held a high regard for the scribes and Pharisees
  - c) They were shocked to hear that they were blind leaders
  - d) And that they were not planted by the Father
  - e) And that they would be uprooted!
- 6. A further word of explanation
  - a) Whatever is eaten would be excreted
  - b) Whatever comes out from the mouth, comes from the heart
  - c) The things that defile a person:
    - i) Evil thoughts
    - ii) Murders
    - iii) Adulteries
    - iv) Fornications
    - v) Thefts
    - vi) False witness
    - vii) Blasphemies

#### **VITAL LESSONS**

1. To guard the heart
2. To guard against defilement
3. To understand that sinful thoughts and deeds defile a person