Date: April 24, 2022

Series: Rediscover – the good news about King Jesus (Part 1 of 3)

Title: Resurrection Gospel

Text: Mark 7, Romans 6, Ezekiel 47

Main Idea: Allow the Resurrected King to resurrect others through your resurrected heart.

1. **Introduction**
   1. Charlie loves Dirt
      1. My son Charlie, who just turned 5, has this uncanny ability to become completely filthy in the blink of an eye.
      2. It could be as simple as eating dinner. He loves all kinds of food to go along with his ketchup. However, we often find ketchup in places where it shouldn’t be. The obvious is down his shirt or in his lap but we’ve seen it in his hair, behind his ears, on his elbows, all the places in-between. Of course, anyone who has ever had to raise a child knows just how messy children are.
      3. Charlie also just loves to play in the dirt. This construction project has been like heaven to him. All the dirt and diggers for him to watch. But he is also just happy playing in piles of dirt. He picks it up with his trucks, moves it somewhere else and then dumps it. He makes dirt pies, and he puts in piles on the patio or moves it to the driveway. And after doing this for hours, he will have dirt or mud everywhere. Like our dog bear, I’m sure Charlie just rolls around in it to see how messy he can get. Now, I’m sure I was the same way as most little boys are, but I never thought I’d be so entertained by a boy who is so entertained by dirt.
   2. Adam and Eve
      1. Adam and Eve when they were in the Eden Garden had it all. They had life to the fullest and they walked in the presence of the almighty. Until one day, they mess up. They get themselves dirty.
      2. They follow the leading of a serpent who gets them to eat the forbidden fruit and all of a sudden, they have a really messy situation on their hands. They have usurped God’s reign as ruler of this world, they have chosen death over life, they have chosen to be slaves to their sin, and as a result the relationship is broken.
      3. But this story in Genesis 3 also tells us that God will not leave mankind in the filth of their sin. He will clean the mess up. So God launches a rescue mission is the person of Abraham and promises him that the one who will clean up this mess will be his descendant. Abraham gets a family. That family becomes a people, that people become a nation and that nation produces a king. But it’s not the king they expect.
   3. Sermon series
      1. Last week was Resurrection Sunday. Most call it Easter, but I prefer Resurrection Sunday. It is the day we celebrate when Jesus came back to life and the tomb was discovered empty.
      2. The heart of the gospel message is that Jesus is not dead but is alive and that makes him King of the world. What is the gospel? Jesus is king. Jesus is King. Jesus is …? That’s right. He becomes King when he is raised from the dead because he has overpowered his enemy, death.
      3. This Gospel message that Jesus is the King works itself out in our lives in three very important ways and they all start with R. In fact, they all start with RE as is made evident by the title graphics for this mini three-week series. The three R’s, and you may want to write these down, the three R’s are Resurrected, Redeemed, and Reconciled. So today, and the following two Sundays, we will be talking about these Rs starting with Resurrection.
   4. Hook
      1. **What I want to do today is to see God’s plan for overcoming death for us. Now we all know God’s plan to resurrect believers from the dead to ever last life at the end of all things. That’s not what I’m interested in today. What I want us to examine is, how does the good news of resurrection impact our lives today?**
      2. In order to do that we will begin our journey in Mark 7. So if you have your Bibles or Bible apps go ahead and open there. We will be jumping around a bit as we work through the problem. So the scripture will be up on the screens for you.
   5. Transition
      1. Let’s begin to answer our question today of how Does resurrection affect us already by seeing what Jesus says is the heart of our problems. The root cause of all our filth. Follow along with me in Mark 7, starting in verse 1.
2. **The Heart of the Problem**
   1. Text Mark 7:1-5
      1. 7:1 Now the Pharisees and some of the experts in the law who came from Jerusalem gathered around him. 2 And they saw that some of Jesus’ disciples ate their bread with unclean hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they perform a ritual washing, holding fast to the tradition of the elders. 4 And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. They hold fast to many other traditions: the washing of cups, pots, kettles, and dining couches.) 5 The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with unwashed hands?”
   2. Explanation part 1
      1. Ritual washings were important to the Jews. This wasn’t because they wanted to avoid bacteria. They had no real concept of bacteria or viruses. Instead, they performed these washings to avoid becoming ritually unclean. This means they wouldn’t be able to enter the temple grounds except to offer sacrifices to become ritually clean again. So they go all out in trying to remain ritually pure so much so that they have added to the rules laid down in the books of Moses.
      2. Which makes me wonder, how much work do we go through to remain ritually pure? What do I mean by that? I mean how hard do we work to keep up appearances with our friends here in this room, or our family out there in the world? We become so caught up in the work to look spiritual or to look righteous that we lose all sight of what is real and what is important.
      3. **Trying to fix the problem ourselves however at best we will just smear the mess.**
      4. Let’s get back to the story. Jesus responds to their question by quoting scripture.
   3. Text part 2 - 7:6-8
      1. Mark 7:6 He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.’ 8 Having no regard for the command of God, you hold fast to human tradition.”
   4. Explanation Part 2
      1. Let’s pause there a moment. Jesus is saying they’ve completely missed the point! Now here is the thing, the Pharisees do everything right. They observe all the feasts. They observe all the diet restrictions. They hang out with the right people and avoid the right people. They know their TaNaK by heart. But Jesus says they’ve missed the point!
      2. They hold fast to the human tradition and the rules they’ve added to the scriptures and made that their god. They missed the whole point of the law that God gave to them through Moses, to Love God and to Love people. They have learned to trust more in their own abilities than the promises made by God.
      3. How have you trusted in your abilities? As a society we prioritize the value of an individual. What can you do for my company? What have you done for me lately? Get the most talented player and we will win. Individual skill and ability is a blessing for sure but its not what matters most. We can be the most successful businessman or woman, we can be the best teacher or nurse or student. But if we don’t have Jesus I don’t care how rich you are, how powerful you are, how successful you are, you’ve lost! These Pharisees have put aside their trust in God’s promises and are missing the messiah Jesus right in front of them. They are more worried about looking spiritual than they are about being connected to the spirit.
      4. From here, Jesus is going to explain why He and his disciples do not need to wash to remain ritually clean. Or to put it another way, he is going to reveal how to remain spiritually pure. And this is the heart of the passage I want us to savor and chew the most.
   5. Text Part 3 – 7:14-23
      1. Mark 7:14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand. 15 There is nothing outside of a person that can defile him by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles him.”
      2. Then they go in the house and his disciples question him about what he meant.
      3. 7:17 Now when Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 He said to them, “Are you so foolish? Don’t you understand that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him? 19 For it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and then goes out into the sewer.” (This means all foods are clean.) 20 He said, “What comes out of a person defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the human heart, come evil ideas, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, evil, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, and folly. 23 All these evils come from within and defile a person.”
   6. Explanation Part 3
      1. So what does Jesus mean here? He in a way, is comparing his heart to a Britta filter. The heart is the source of cleanliness for filth. Whatever comes into the person, the things they are avoiding by their ceremonial washings are all handled by the condition of a person’s heart. Jesus tells them that the heart is what makes someone clean or unclean. It is the heart that matters the most.
   7. The power of Jesus’ pure heart
      1. Jesus has a pure heart. He has a pure heart because he has not sinned.
      2. So, we see all sorts of stories in the gospels and acts of Jesus and his followers doing things that should, by the law of Moses make them ritually dirty and not fit for service in God’s kingdom. But instead, Jesus is not becoming contaminated by the dirt around him. He is instead purifying everything he encounters.
      3. For example, he touches a dead man and instead of Jesus becoming unclean, the man comes back to life. Jesus touches a leprosy man. According to Moses, that would make Jesus unclean and unfit to be with God’s people, but instead the leprosy is purified and taken away. Jesus is touched by a woman who has been bleeding for a long time. That woman was unclean and should have made Jesus unclean but instead she is healed. Time after time, that which should make Jesus unclean is instead purified by Jesus. He is purifying everything he comes into contact with.
      4. Jesus is trampling upon all the lines and boundaries of the Law of Moses and culture of his day with no regard for ritual purity because as he put it, “The heart is what purifies a man.”
   8. The point
      1. **The heart of the problem is the problem with the heart. We need new hearts.**
   9. Transition
      1. Jesus is the great Brita filter purifying the world around him everywhere he goes. And I think we too can participate in that work. But first we need to address the Heart problem. How does God plan to address the problem with heart so we can spread purity instead of filth? Well, let’s begin by looking at some promises laid down by two prophets in the Old Testament. First we will go to Jeremiah and then to Ezekiel.
3. **We have New Hearts**
   1. Let me first say that these two passages were written during the time of the Exile. So God’s people made such a mess of things that they were kicked out of the promised land, exactly like Adam and Eve who were kicked out of the Garden. And just like then when God promised Adam and Eve that He will fix their mess, here too God promises his people he will fix their hearts. Let’s see what God promises.
      1. Jeremiah 31:33 - **33**“But I will make **a new covenant** with the whole nation of Israelafter I plant them back in the land,” says the Lord. “I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts and minds. **I will be their God and they will be my people**.
      2. Ezekiel 11:19 - **19**I will give them one heart and I will put **a new spirit within them**; I will remove the hearts of stone from their bodies and I will give them tender hearts,
      3. Explanation
         1. Look at what God promises. He will do three things… First he will set up a new covenant which means he will make a new Kingdom.
         2. He will give them a new spirit which means he will give us the Holy Spirit which will provide them with a heart of flesh.
         3. And three, he uses adoption like language for those who he gives a new heart, thus they become a child of God.
         4. So God says that he will give his people a new heart. That’s good because that’s exactly our problem. And he does this by giving us his spirit which will make it so that we can truly live the way God intended.
      4. Paul is going to talk about this a lot in his letters. He is going to talk about how we are new people as a result of God giving us new hearts. Listen to the way Paul puts it in these five passages. First from Romans 6…
   2. Promises fulfilled.
      1. **Romans 6:4** Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may ***walk in newness of* life** (NOW). 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his **resurrection**.
      2. **2 Corinthians 5:17**So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!
      3. **Ephesians 4:22**You were taught with reference to your former way of life to lay aside the old man who is being corrupted in accordance with deceitful desires, **23**to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24**and to put on the new man who has been created in God’s image—in righteousness and holiness that comes from truth.
      4. **Philippians 4:7 7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
      5. **Colossians 3:9**Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices **10**and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it.
   3. The Resurrected Life
      1. These passages from Paul’s letters tells us that
         1. that we can walk in newness of life now,
         2. that we are a new creation,
         3. that we are being renewed like all of creation will be one day,
         4. That our new hearts are being guarded by God through peace
         5. and that we have been clothed with the new self.
      2. The promise of our ultimate resurrection has already begun in us now! Just take a moment and let that sink in because I’m not sure that is a doctrine we take captive of enough.
      3. The good news of Jesus is that the grave was empty, the new creation has been launched in the midst of the old creation. As we come to accept the good news that Jesus is the King of the world, made so by the fact that he was enthroned upon the cross and ratified in his resurrection.
      4. That resurrected life begins when we declare our allegiance to him, make him the lord of our life, and he puts his spirit in us in baptism and we become a sign of the new creation living in the midst of impure old creation.
   4. The point
      1. Therefore, according to Paul,
         1. **The resurrection hope begins now with a resurrected heart.**
   5. Transition
      1. **So this begs the question, If the resurrected life has already begun in our resurrected hearts, and we have new hearts already then does that mean we too can spread purity instead of impurity? Does that mean our hearts can be Britta filters to the world instead of toilets?**
      2. The answer, I believe is yes. To see what the Bible has to say let’s jump back, one last time to the OT one last time, Ezekiel 47.
4. **Our Hearts are Temple Springs**
   1. Ezekiel 47 – Ezekiel’s Temple
      1. This story takes place during their exile in Babylon. Ezekiel sees a temple of the future and the glory of God returning to Jerusalem from the east where he had been with his people. Then he spends the next 7 chapters giving a very detailed virtual tour, measuring every aspect of it. Many have interpreted this as some Temple that needs to be built before Jesus can return to the earth. Let me just say that that interpretation ignores context, proper interpretation practices called hermeneutics, and about 1800 years of biblical interpretation. We are not waiting for the temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt and if you want to ask me more about that, just see me after class. But in Ezekiel 47, after the grand tour, Ezekiel notices some water dripping from the threshold of the temple and it the water collects into a gush, into a stream, into a river, and dumps into the dead sea. This water brings life with it everywhere it goes. The point of the Temple here, is that it represents the presence of God with his people bringing new creation and new life, resurrection where there was only death. This is what is said about this spring from the temple…
      2. **6**He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river. **7**When I had returned, I noticed a vast number of trees on the banks of the river, on both sides. **8**He said to me, “These waters go out toward the eastern region and flow down into the rift valley; when they enter the Dead Sea, where the sea is stagnant, the waters become fresh. **9**Every living creature that swarms where the river flows will live; there will be many fish, for these waters flow there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river flows. **10**Fishermen will stand beside it; from En Gedi to En Eglaim they will spread nets. They will catch many kinds of fish, like the fish of the Great Sea. **11**But its swamps and its marshes will not become fresh; they will remain salty. **12**On both sides of the river’s banks, every kind of tree will grow for food. Their leaves will not wither nor will their fruit fail, but they will bear fruit every month, because their water source flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”
   2. Jesus connects this idea to his followers in John 7. Jesus says:
      1. Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **38**The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” **39**But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive
      2. We are the spring supplied by the indwelling of the Spirit in our resurrected hearts bringing new life everywhere we take our feet. The very ground we stand on can be consecrated for the Lord. The people we come into contact with can be healed, if not miraculously by the power we receive from God then the love of God manifested in our actions.
      3. And of course, I say all this not to bolster our worth or glory, but because we are but the overflow of God’s grace upon the earth and the pawns in his master plan to resurrect from the dead his creation. To restore it to its purpose and place before we corrupted it with our rebellion.
      4. Jesus is King of the world and we his subjects here to bring him glory and praise. I just want you to know that we are part of his resurrection plan. Let me put it like this…
   3. The Point
      1. **We are the living springs from the living king.**
5. **Illustration**
   1. Princess Diana
      1. The story of Princess Diana has made a strong return to the attention of the public in recent years due to the major success of shows like the Crown and movies like Spencer. Not to mention all the documentaries that have come out about the royal family.
      2. There was one event though that I want to remind you of, because no doubt you’ve all remember or heard about this.
      3. In 1989, the princess was making a tour of the states and while in the destitute neighborhood of Harlem New York she visits a hospital. Do you remember what happens next?
      4. While visiting the floor with aids patients she hugs and actually picks up a boy with aids. This happened when many people still believed that Aids could be contracted through direct contact. This boy, through no fault of his own was a social outcast. The wrong sort of person because he was contaminated by this horrific disease. And the little act of hugging him, physically connecting with him helped purify him. Not by the removal of the illness, but by humanizing him again. By showing that he can be loved.
      5. At the time, Dr. Margaret Heagarty, pediatric director at Harlem Hospital [told Diana](https://www.nytimes.com/1989/02/04/nyregion/new-yorkers-on-the-princess-boffo-to-blase.html), ‘’Your presence here and in Great Britain has shown that folks with this disease can be hugged, can be cared for, can be loved.”
   2. Charlie
      1. You know how we get Charlie clean when he becomes filthy? We bathe him. You know how we wash away our filth? We bathe in the waters of baptism.
6. **Closing**
   1. So we are dirty people with broken hearts made alive by Jesus when he gives us his spirit. And when he does we become the overflow of resurrection for the world as we carry his good news to the far reaches of his creation that Jesus is King. And here is what I’m calling all of us in this room to do,
   2. The Challenge – share your heart with others that Jesus is King and when you do you will see the power of resurrection.
      1. **Allow God to resurrect others through your resurrected heart**. Let’s pray.
   3. Prayer
      1. Heavenly father, you are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and we ask you to fill our hearts with your spirit not only to lead us into righteousness, but also so that we may be the outpouring of your love and healing on the world bringing life and resurrection everywhere we go. I pray that you resurrect others through our resurrected hearts.