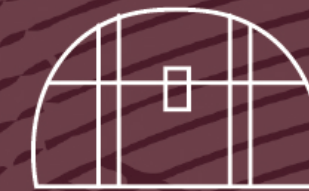
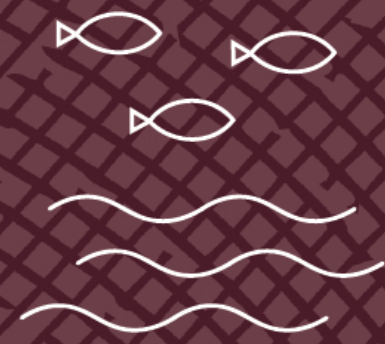


MATTHEW







The human heart will
always reveal itself

- A Problem with Tradition
- The Centrality of The Heart
- Becoming Love

A Problem With Tradition

Then Jesus was approached by Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem, who asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don’t wash their hands when they eat.” vv. 1-2

Divided Motives

Righteousness throughout the Bible always denotes right relationships—with God and with people around us.

- Dr. Jonathan Pennington

A Problem With Tradition

Boundary Markers | cultural practices and postures that hem in our own versions of holiness, wholeness, and righteousness

Locate the sacred center of a group; its boundaries of tolerable and intolerable persons, objects and behavior...discover all this and you have got down to the elementary particles.

- Mark Sayers

Fearful people live within restrictive boundaries...People who live in fear feel compelled to remain in control. They attempt to control themselves and they attempt to control their world. Often despite their best intentions, this spills over into efforts to control others....Fear also blocks responsiveness to others. The fearful person may appear deeply loving, but fear always interferes with love. Energy invested in maintaining safety and comfort always depletes energy available for love of others.

- David Benner

Hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said:
This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Vv 7-9

The Centrality of the Heart

The Centrality of the Heart

The Heart | the seat of the will → the inner center for thinking, feeling, desire → the cockpit of your life

Where we aim our hearts will direct our lives.

Your heart will direct your life and your life will expose your heart

Love

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36v26

We must make love the measure of our spiritual maturity

Becoming Love

Becoming Love

- **Invitation | Examine Your Heart**
- **Invitation | Particular Love**

Where have I become a Pharisee?

Appetites

- Are my appetites, affections, and attention aimed at Jesus?
- What appetites have I been trying to satisfy today? And are they in line with the way of Jesus?

Time

- Who or what is getting the best of me? My best energies, focus, attunement? How have i prioritized (or not) in light of this?
- Any invitations to be more generous with my time?

Interruptions

- Interruptions can be sacred burning bushes...maybe take off your shoes
- Review your day's plans and interruptions
- “Who you are is what you do in the breath between stimulus and response.” — Victor Frankl

Particular Love

- Love is counterfeit when it stays general
- Practice | Listening
- Practice | Blessing & Encouraging

Psalm 139