

PENTECOST 15 (2018)
Mark 7

Let us pray: ‘Get common with us again, Almighty God, Heavenly Father. For your example and pattern, watch precisely the way we confess our commonality with all men; then do likewise to us through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen!’

Mark 7:14–23 *And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: 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.” And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 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, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

In the Name of Jesus.

What does God our Heavenly Father do with us, the baptized; meaning, with our SINS, until the End?

²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his

right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.¹

They were all in the dark, the WHOLE WORLD together; it’s what they had in common. Despite the church leaders’ and soldiers’ best advertising campaign, Heaven turned the lights out on sin and the Bearer of sin. The One Who sees all will see NONE OF IT! Praise Jesus! Hallelujah and Amen!

Saint Matthew contains the most full text of the ‘Our Father,’ the Lord’s Prayer. Saint Luke has an abridged version. Saint Mark, not a bit of the text. But I am getting convinced that the entire sixteen chapters of the Gospel According to Saint Mark is nothing BUT that prayer! Broken down into tiny bits for the likes of me; you too. Especially the HEART of those commands to heaven: ‘Hey! God! Now, FATHER: DO NOT DEVIATE A SMIDGIN in the whole way you attach Yourself to US, Heaven Above—NOT a hair’s breadth shall you stray from OUR free and full pardon and acceptance and commonality with the man on the left and the man on the right, when YOU get around to learning to pardon US! To HUG us and learn that YOU CANNOT GET ENOUGH of sinners like US!’

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 15:26–33). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

You and I are going to ‘school’ Heaven? We have! At the place called Golgotha, that is, the Place of a Skull. And we school Heaven, daily and much, until Our Loving Father learns, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that about all He can do with us is treat us as we AIN’T!

“Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.”

The Holy Spirit was paying full attention when He inspired these texts!

Last week we heard how Jesus and his disciples had been rubbing shoulders and getting their hands dirty with the masses at the mall, in the marketplace. But when they withdrew, the spies were out to see if Jesus was sufficiently REPULSED by the experience. His DISCIPLES, at least, were not! For they did not scrub surgically sufficient to advertise to Heaven and earth that approaching the unwashed masses so close and so long is GROSS!

Jesus declares NULL AND VOID ALL the Old Covenant type of separating and pulling back and insulating and layering upon layering of the HOLY AWAY from those NOT HOLY.

HOW DARE HE? Cancel Moses?! He must have sent Moses!
And He must see how unfruitful that had all been!

But dontcha love it?! After declaring all foods and all men and the whole WORLD ‘CLEAN,’ He then ‘entered the house and LEFT...THE...PEOPLE,’ to talk to the special few in a special place. And what did He reveal to them in their special place and time separate from ‘THE PEOPLE?’ ‘So, just like THOSE PEOPLE—you, my separate Twelve, understand as little as they?!!!!!!’

The Spirit of Jesus reveals: In the NEW Contract between God and man—forged in the suffering of the Man Who is God and the God Who is Man—the CLOSER we approach THIS MANIFESTATION of the Holy One, the LESS SEPARATE AND SPECIAL we are OVER...AGAINST...ANY...OTHER...MAN!

I have been noticing in conversations with Christians lately that it is seemingly easy and natural for those who follow the Crucified to ape and mimic those who roared with laughter at His Crucifixion! Wagging heads over the sad state into which men fall; exclaiming ‘Aha!’ over the OBVIOUS AND PROVEN distance between Heaven’s acceptance and the man in a bad spot!

So I hear snide remarks about the failings of the next man—c’mon, my friends! We all KNEW that so-and-so would not follow through, or keep the promise, or change, or try hard enough! ‘Aha!’ And we all just KNEW that disaster was coming

the way so-and-so was headed! And it is just DELICIOUS to chew people and their crashes and missteps in our mouths, isn't it?!

Well, enough about ME! You must do this, at least a little. It is embarrassing to have to admit that I'm looking for confirmation that the next man was headed to trouble as I KNEW—as I did little or nothing to head it off. 'Come DOWN from the cross and we will admit HEAVEN has started its reign on EARTH!'

No, dear disciples of Jesus: our calling is to scamper UP on to the cross with our King; or the man on the left or the man on the right.

Y'all are not ALL THAT MUCH superior in your Christianity than your poor pastor! Don't we all have a long repentance agenda?

Thanksgiving ABOUNDING that the Master took bread, gave thanks, and gave His disciples the MEAL of UN-SEPARATION; the Supper of COMMONALITY; we call these gifts 'Holy Commonality!' What do we mean?

Saint Paul calls the Lord's Supper a 'commonality' of the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ. I guarantee y'all that that communion word in First Corinthians is so very close to the 'unclean' word all over our Mark 7 lesson today. What comes from outside a man does not make him COMMON, THE

OPPOSITE OF HOLY AND GOD AND LIFE. Now that I HAVE come and was baptized with y'all, an honest look INSIDE, to the HEART, is all y'all need to learn to Follow Me, to bear your Cross, and to lose your life—I have it, your life, safe with God!'

We receive the Communion that makes us Holy—that then sends us out from our private lesson here with JESUS, to live out the Good News that the more FULLY God is with us, the more FULLY NO MAN belongs APART FROM US!

And if we find ourselves unable to school our Heavenly Father about forgiving US as WE are bursting with pride to be pardoning and embracing those who repulse US—

THAT IS HEAVEN'S PROBLEM, my dear ones—NOT OURS! And the Prayer belongs then MORE often and fervently spoken by us! For WE will declare all foods clean, all men clean, when Heaven pledges us that where SIN and revulsion is carried and suffered on earth, Heaven's will is being done; and the One Who sees all REFUSES to spy out OUR failings; nor the man on the left nor the man on the right in the Name of Jesus. Amen!