

# Mark 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

## Analysis

Nothing from outside entering defiles but things coming out defile. Revolutionary teaching challenges ceremonial purity laws. External ritual cannot make spiritually clean. Defilement is internal moral not external physical. Heart is source of sin not diet. Jesus fulfilled ceremonial law showed its purpose pointing to greater reality. Reformed theology sees fulfillment of ceremonial law in Christ. Moral law continues ceremonial shadows fulfilled.

## Historical Context

Jewish purity laws distinguished clean unclean foods. Jesus declares all foods clean (v. 19). Fulfills prepares for Gentile mission. Peter vision Acts 10 applies this principle. Early church Council Jerusalem (Acts 15) decided Gentiles not bound by Jewish food laws. This was revolutionary. Paul fought Judaizers who wanted to impose Torah on Gentiles. Reformation recovered Christian freedom from ceremonial law while maintaining moral law.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does source of defilement being internal not external teach about nature of sin holiness?
2. How does Jesus teaching on clean unclean prepare for gospel going to Gentiles?

## Interlinear Text

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οὐδέν ἐστιν ἔξωθεν τοῦ ἄνθρωπον εἰσπορευόμενον εἰς  
nothing There is from without G3588 a man that entering into  
G3762 G2076 G1855 G444 G1531 G1519

αὐτοῦ, ὁ δύναται αὐτοῦ, κοινοῦντα ἀλλὰ τὰ  
him can him defile but G3588  
G846 G1410 G846 G2840 G235

ἐκπορευόμενά ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, ἐκεῖνά ἐστιν τὰ κοινοῦντα  
the things which come out of him those There is G3588 defile  
G1607 G575 G846 G1565 G2076 G2840

τὸν ἄνθρωπον  
G3588 a man  
G444

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 4:23** (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Titus 1:15** (Parallel theme): Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

**Hebrews 9:10** (Parallel theme): Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

**Hebrews 13:9** (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

**Matthew 12:34** (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

**Romans 14:17** (Parallel theme): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 10:28** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

**1 Corinthians 10:25** (Parallel theme): Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:

**Matthew 15:16** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?