

Mark 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Analysis

From within out of heart proceed evil thoughts adulteries fornications murders. From within esōthen source. Heart kardias center of person. Proceed ekporeuetai originate come forth. Evil thoughts dialogismoι kakoi sinful intentions. List of sins follows. Heart is fountain of sin. Not environment circumstances upbringing but fallen nature. Total depravity doctrine humans utterly affected by sin every faculty. Reformed theology affirms original sin inherited corruption from Adam. Sin is not merely actions but condition state of heart.

Historical Context

Jewish emphasis on external purity Jesus shifts to internal. Problem is not ceremonial defilement but moral corruption. Jeremiah 17:9 heart deceitfully wicked. Need is not external reform but internal transformation. New heart Ezekiel 36:26. Born again John 3. Early church emphasized regeneration new birth heart transformation by Spirit. Medieval church sometimes emphasized external penance. Reformation recovered biblical emphasis regeneration justification sanctification.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does teaching that sin originates from heart challenge surface-level behavior modification approaches?
2. What does list of sins proceeding from heart teach about total depravity and need for regeneration?

Interlinear Text

ἔσωθεν γὰρ ἐκ τῆς καρδίας τῶν ἀνθρώπων οἱ
from within **For** **out of** G3588 **the heart** G3588 **of men** G3588
G2081 G1063 G1537 G2588 G444

διαλογισμοὶ οἱ κακοὶ ἐκπορεύονται μοιχεῖαι, πορνεῖαι
thoughts G3588 **evil** **proceed** **adulteries** **fornications**
G1261 G2556 G1607 G3430 G4202

φόνοι
murders
G5408

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:9 (Evil): The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Matthew 15:19 (Evil): For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Acts 8:22 (Evil): Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Ezekiel 38:10 (Evil): Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

Jeremiah 4:14 (Evil): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Matthew 9:4 (Evil): And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

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

James 2:4 (Evil): Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Luke 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Isaiah 59:7 (Evil): Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.