



# The Shepherd's Voice

August 28, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

## “Defiled Hands? Defiled Hearts!”

“And Jesus 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.’” Mark 7: 20-23.

Once again Jesus is set up by the Pharisees and Scribes. For they ask Him why His disciples walk not according to the tradition of the elders, “but eat with defiled (impure) hands?” (Mk 7:5) Jesus sees through the smoke screen and criticism. Their focus was on their traditions of ceremonially washing hands. But what was in their ‘hearts’ or the center of their persons? The heart was seen as the locus of life; the ‘thoughts and intentions of their hearts’ revealed their reality. The mind with its decision-making capability is really the heart of a person in action. The heart is thought generally as the emotional side of a person but really it’s all connected. Jesus says, “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.”(v. 15). He strikes right at the (heart) of the matter! It’s what we believe that informs our ‘hearts’ and produces our reality.

Jesus makes it crystal clear why people are impure before God. Their hands act on their thoughts. Their decisions and communications are the things that come out of their minds/hearts/being. So look at that list again: evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness! Quite a hall of infamy! We’ve seen many a leader, many a person, fall from grace and enter into the grip of Satan. Just heard recently that John Edwards (one time candidate for President) is going to marry his mistress now after his poor ex-

wife endured such pain and sorrow and died of disease. Is he really getting his way?! He will answer all of this to God. It starts with the licentiousness of ‘no constraints’ on sensuality and grows to be sexual immorality and adultery. Society today does not give us any restraints. In fact, the social engineering that is going on right now is ‘redefining’ the morality of our ancestors. (See Fr. Richard’s Newsletter article).

The latest General Convention of the Episcopal Church (that we left in 2006) now celebrates the full and open “blessings of same-sex unions before God”! Not to be constrained, they also now must by canon law include all transgendered people in the ordained ministry of the church. They also instructed the Church Insurance Corporation to allow transgender surgical operations for those under insurance (clergy and lay staff of churches). So, if an employee of the church who was born with certain parts doesn’t feel right about their created origins they can have the Church Insurance Corp. pay for their sex change operation! That’s deceit if I ever saw it and absolute foolishness too! So as a result of their ‘hearts being deceived by Satan, they now have changed the moral landscape of centuries (within “Christ’s Church”!). And they’re making it feasible for other non-conformist, immoral persons to ‘get their way’. If this doesn’t drive people out of their church I don’t know what will. Will this open the door for the NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Lover Association) folks to petition TEC to allow for studies to be done for the ‘holy love’ and ‘spiritual communion’ ‘needed’ for pedophiles?! Slippery slope mentality for sure! What’s coming out of their hearts?

The ‘list’ also touches us too. Are we consumed with pride, envy, coveting and other aspects of “I want it my way”? All of those issues need to be confessed and taken to the foot of the cross for Jesus to speak His powerful Word of Truth and

cause us to tremble, tremble, tremble! We as Christians humble ourselves before our HOLY GOD and must do His Commandments. We don't tell Him, 'well, I think you got it wrong God, and I know better.'" This Sunday's passage from Mark 7 calls us again to discern and evaluate whether or not we are consuming the wrong stuff from our society, the frenzy of 'feeding the sensual pig'. We need to humble ourselves as a nation and with remorse for our course of late, repent and return to our God through the abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must all do the 'right thing' in God's sight in order not to be really 'defiled'! Another definition of 'defiled' is to take that file out of the drawer and dispose of it. Surely, we don't want

God to take anyone out of His Files and dispose of them!

I'm praying that our parish will not buy into the immoral feeding trough of the society around us and that we would all make right decisions from the heart to truly love Jesus and do His will. "Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home in him.'" John 14:23.

With the Abiding Love of Christ's Truth,  
Fr. Joe

### Sunday Servers this week...

September 2, 2012	Proper 17	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Jani Dubski	Frank Comstock
Psalm Reader	Psalm 15	Choir	Deacon Sue
Second Reader	Epheisians 6:10-20	Randy Stewart	Stephen Painter
Intercessor		Mitch Dubski	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Dick & Linnie Phelps	Carolyn Blumberg, Cline Handy
Acolytes		Mitch Dubski	Caitlin B (C); Damon W (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Paula Sholly	Judi & Bill Collins
Ushers		Rob Ackerman, Dick Sholly	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day			Jackie Lansing
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Rudy Theobold	Ann & JR Fox, Joy Rosendale, Petey Seibold
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

## Did you know?

There's a service of Evening Prayer and Healing on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way home from work and decompress for the weekend.

Get ready for the  
Ministry Faire on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ministry leaders, it's time to make posters to put up around the church to let people know about your ministry. Call the church office if you have any questions.

**Announcements for Sundays** – Fr. Joe wants to have lay people involved in this. If you would like to make the announcements on one Sunday a month, please call the church office or Robbin Gates. Robbin is the coordinator. The announcements will be sent to you prior to Sunday so you will not have to make anything up.

**Healing Prayer Service at Grace**  
7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 5, 2012

## Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. – Traditional Service  
9:30 a.m. – Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. – Family Service with  
Worship Team

## Fund Raiser for Grace at Chick-fil-A

September 13, 2012

From 4 to 7 p.m.

Pick up a coupon at church  
and plan to have your dinner at  
Chick-fil-A that evening.

## Readings for Sunday

Deuteronomy 4:1-9

Psalm 15

Ephesians 6:10-20

Mark 7:1-23

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

### This Week at Grace – August 28 – September 4

#### Tues. August 28

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study -Revelation  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
5:30 p.m. Prayer Room Meeting – Suite T

#### Wed August 29

9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting

#### Thurs. August 30

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study  
8:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting  
10-Noon Play Group  
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Fri. August 31

Fr. Joe's Day Off  
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing

#### Sat. September 1

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

#### Sun. September 2

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service with choir  
9:30 a.m. Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team

#### Mon. September 3

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer  
Labor Day – Church Office Closed

#### Tues. September 4

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: [www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Revelation. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

### Sunday Refreshments Between Services

Please consider volunteering once a month to bring goodies (either home made or purchased) for our fellowship time. We need people for the 8:00 a.m. service and for the 10:15 service. Call the church office if you have questions

### Save the date!

Aug. 28 Prayer Room meeting – Suite T  
Sept. 3 Labor Day – Church office closed.  
Sept. 5 Healing Prayer Service  
Sept. 9 Register for Sunday School  
Sept. 12 Soaking Prayer Service  
Sept. 13 Chick-fil-A church fund raiser  
Sept. 15 Diocesan Convention  
Sept. 16 Ministry Faire at Grace  
Sept. 16 Sunday School starts  
Sept. 19 Vestry meeting  
Sept. 20-23 Men's Cursillo  
Sept. 23 Benefit Concert at Grace for CHC  
Sept. 27-30 Women's Cursillo  
Oct. 3 Healing Prayer  
Oct. 6 Blessing of the Animals  
Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer  
Oct. 17 Vestry meeting  
Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service  
Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference at Grace Anglican Church