



Sermon Notes: “*The Heart of the Matter*”

Matthew 15:10-20

10.11.26

- **SIGN 1:** Don’t take your cues from what God didn’t plant.
- **SIGN 2:** Being offended isn’t proof that someone is wrong.
 - When truth stings, ask “Why now?” before you ask, “How dare you?”
 - Speak truth as a beggar, not a judge.

GUIDES:

- **The ditch of self-righteousness:** “I measure up.”
- **The ditch of despair:** “I’ll never measure up.”

A BLIND GUIDE...	A TRUE GUIDE...
Adds to what God said	Points you back to what <u>God</u> said
Measures you by their rules	Points you to Jesus
Loads the burden and walks away (Matt. 23:4)	Helps <u>carry</u> the burden (Gal. 6:2)
Speaks from above you	Speaks beside you as a fellow sinner (Gal. 6:1)
Tells you only what you want to hear — or, only what’s wrong with you	Speaks the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)
Leaves you in a ditch: proud or hopeless	Helps you <u>grow</u> in freedom and obedience

PETER’S PATTERN:

1. Heart work is hard work — and we grow through it.
2. Our minds get it fast; our hearts take time.

So WHAT:

SURRENDER 1: Name your guides.

SURRENDER 2: Ask, “Why now?”

SURRENDER 3: Come like Peter.

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Do you have a "usual seat," at church, at the dinner table, or in the truck? How would you honestly feel if that was changed or someone else was sitting in it?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 15:10–14

- The Pharisees told everyone what a faithful person does, and the crowd took their cues from them instead of from what God actually said. Darin gave a few examples of things we often believe but Scripture doesn't actually say: "Christians must give exactly 10%," "Christians can't drink," and "God won't give you more than you can handle." Have you believed any of these, or something similar? Where did that idea come from?

READ: Matthew 15:12

- The people most offended by Jesus were the ones who knew the Scriptures best. Why do you think familiarity with Jesus can sometimes make us *more* easily offended, not less?
- "Being offended isn't proof that someone is wrong." Think of a time someone's words stung you. Looking back, was it a harsh delivery, or did the truth touch something real? How can you tell the difference in the moment?

READ: Matthew 15:14; Matthew 11:28–30

- Blind guides lead people into one of two ditches: self-righteousness ("I measure up") or despair ("I'll never measure up"). Which ditch are you more prone to drift toward? Why do you think that is?
- Look at the blind guide/true guide chart from Sunday's notes. Without naming names, which row stood out to you most? Who has been a true guide in your life, and what made them one?

READ: Matthew 15:15–20

- Peter said, "Yes, we understand" (13:51), then sank in the water, then heard "Don't you understand yet?"; and years later, on a rooftop, was *still* learning the same lesson (Acts 10:9–15). Why is Peter's slow growth good news for us?

DEPLOY: Three Surrenders for This Week

1. Name your guides. Write down one true guide you'll lean into this week, and one voice that may need a boundary.
2. Ask "Why now?" The next time you feel offended, pause before you respond. Was it the delivery, or did it touch something real?
3. Come like Peter. Bring one honest question to Jesus in prayer this week, and one to a true guide in your life.

Come ready to share what happened.

Don't Forget:

- Bylaw meetings — will be happening over the next few weeks!
- Oct. 18: New series, *Heart Work: Forging the Inner Life*, begins. A series to help us grow in spiritual formation.

Prayer:

Father,

Thank You that You see past our hands to our hearts, and that You love us anyway. Thank You that the washing we could never do, You have already done through the blood of Jesus.

Forgive us for taking our cues from voices You never planted. Forgive us for the times we've climbed into the ditch of self-righteousness and lift us out of the ditch of despair.

Give us humble hearts when truth stings, and gentle words when we speak it.

Like Peter, we don't always understand yet. But we keep coming back to You. Keep growing us in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Create in us a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.