



Pastor Scott Archer 01.26.2020*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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What Lies Beneath?

Mark 7:1-23

Series: *Getting In on the Good News*
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 7:14–23 (NIV) — **14** Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. **15** Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. **Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.**” **16 17** After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. **18** “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? **19** For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) **20** He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. **21 For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person.**”

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we give up on posturing – religious, political or otherwise – and get real with ourselves and God about what’s really going on beneath the surface of our lives.

Posture: v. behave in a way that is intended to impress or mislead.

*Access today’s sermon notes via your smartphone or tablet with the **YouVersion** Bible app from LifeChurch.tv. CCChurch Guest Wi-Fi password: central8360church.

Getting to the Heart of the Matter...

❖ We often live our lives in echo chambers that...

- Reinforce self-righteous/self-serving practices and positions, while placing us as judges over those that don’t toe the “party line.”

Luke 6:41–42 (NIV) — **41** “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? **42** How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

❖ We are all posers at some level.

- Substituting religion, tradition or political correctness, for honesty, integrity and compassion.

Matthew 23:27–28 (NIV) — **27** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **28** In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

❖ Jesus tells us the truth about ourselves, and calls us to honesty and humility and faithfulness.

1 Peter 5:6 (NIV) — **6** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

Romans 12:3 (NIV) — **3** *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.*

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