

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 7 14-23



Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:11

Praising:

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea, him exalting, self-abasing – this is victory!

Reading:

Mark 7:14-23
Clean or unclean?

Jesus is so agitated that he calls for the crowd's attention himself. What makes people unclean, Jesus announces, is not what people take into their bodies, but what comes out of their hearts. Why the disciples are even slower than usual to grasp what Jesus is saying, is that this was (and remains to this day) a basic way of Jewish thinking: certain animals are unclean and those who eat them are made unclean by doing so. Jesus' point is that 'things' as such cannot be clean

or unclean in any spiritual sense. Persons can be, but only by virtue of their own actions, actions which flow from the motivation of their hearts. It's as though Jesus wants to free as many people as possible then and there from the burden of this way of thinking and living.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord you want us to be clean

- by the forgiveness of Christ as we come to him in sorrow for our sins
- by the example of Christ who demonstrates love in action as the way we should live
- by the knowledge of Christ guiding and directing our choices and decisions

Father: when I'm tempted to lay the blame for my behaviour on other things or other people, take me to the cross, where my blame and the blame of all the world was laid on Jesus. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 11 November 2015