

Life Change from the Heart
“Step 4: Examining the Cup”
Matthew 23:25-26
For the Week of October 30, 2016
New City Church of LA

GROW & SERVE GROUP GUIDE AND HOMEWORK

Get to know one another

What was the coolest or craziest Halloween costume you ever wore?

Pray

Plan Thanksgiving and/or Christmas gatherings

Discuss Serve Project

Sermon Reflection

“Life Change from the Heart” is a sermon series on how God changes us from the heart through the gospel. Step 1 is admitting that we are powerless to fix ourselves. Step 2 is about going on a quest to find a power greater than ourselves to help us. Step 3 is about surrendering our lives to God. This means that God is the Lord of our lives, and we embark on a journey of obeying the two greatest commandments that he gave us: (1) to love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul, and (2) to love our neighbors as ourselves. Now, how do we love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul? We start by cleaning our heart. So, step 4 is about examining our heart so that we can start the process of cleaning our heart. Among many passages, Manny preached from Matthew 23:25-26, which commands us to clean the inside of the cup. Here is a brief overview of the process of cleaning the inside of the cup:

1. Look inside the cup to see what’s dirtying it (Step 4)
 - a. Learn how to identify the dirtying elements
 - b. Take inventory of them
2. Show your findings to your teacher and the Only One who can clean it (Step 5)
3. Stop doing the things that dirtied the cup in the first place (Step 6)
4. Humbly ask the Only One who can clean the cup to clean it (Step 7)

Any questions or comments about the sermon?

Bible Study

1. **Read Matthew 23:25-26.**
2. Why did the Pharisees and teachers of the law focus on cleaning the outside of the cup? Why is this hypocrisy? Do we still see this tendency in Christianity today?

3. How about *us*? In what ways do *we* focus on cleaning the outside of the cup instead of the inside of the cup? (Outside of the cup=our behavior; inside of the cup=our heart) Why is this problematic?
4. Jesus said the inside of the cup is full of greed and self-indulgence. How do greed and self-indulgence motivate our external behavior?
5. How are greed and self-indulgence forms of idolatry?
6. How can we find idols, i.e., greed and self-indulgence, in our heart? Share your experience of how you discovered you had an idol in your life.

Share how you are doing this week with one another

Pray for one another, the church, and our neighborhood