

14

Only God Makes Us Pure

Chapter Summary

In the wake of the feeding of the 5,000, an official delegation from Jerusalem arrives to test Jesus over ritual handwashing. Jesus exposes how man-made traditions can eclipse God's commands, rebuking "blind guides" who polish externals while ignoring hearts. He steps outside to tell the crowd a piercing parable: what enters from outside doesn't defile; what comes out from within does. The scene widens as he warns against greed through the Rich Fool, calls disciples to seek the kingdom, and urges constant readiness for the Master's return.

Away from the crowds, Jesus teaches his disciples plainly. Kingdom life is not measured by barns, balance sheets, or performative purity, but by a heart aligned with God's word, generous to the poor, watchful, and faithful. With vivid images (Corban loopholes, lit lamps, an unexpected knock, a thief in the night) he unmasks hypocrisy and summons wise stewardship. The chapter presses this central claim: purity is God's work in the inner person, and true obedience flows from a transformed heart that treasures God above possessions and traditions.

Main Truth: God purifies from the inside out.

A tradition-kept exterior cannot cleanse a defiled heart; only God's truth welcomed, believed, and obeyed can. Jesus redirects attention from ceremonial performances to inner reality—greed, pride, deceit, and mercy toward the poor reveal what rules cannot reach. He calls us to treasure God above gain, to watch for his return with lamps lit, and to steward influence as servants who will give account. Receiving this truth frees us from anxious striving, reorders our desires, and produces the fruit of generous, faithful love.

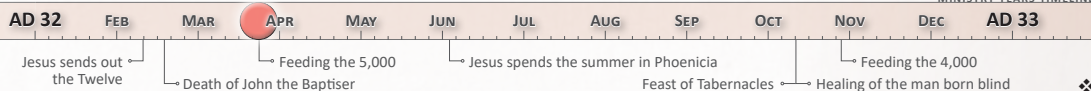
Week 13 Recap

- 1 What was something new you learned last week?
- 2 What stood out the most from this week's study?
- 3 Did you do anything as a result of what you have learned?

Key Scripture

Mark 7:20

"It is what comes out of you that defiles you."



Day 1 – Traditions vs. God’s Command

Chapter 14:1–15

Day 1 Truth:

Tradition can’t cleanse the heart.

Day 1 Scripture:

Matthew 15:9

“Their worship is a charade, and their teachings are the doctrines of men.”

Day 1 Prayer:

Search my heart, Lord; dismantle every man-made rule I hide behind, and lead me into honest repentance that loves your commands more than my customs.

Day 2 Truth:

Be rich toward God.

Day 2 Scripture:

Luke 12:20

“You fool! This very night your soul will be demanded of you.”

Day 2 Prayer:

Father, loosen my grip on surplus and redirect my plans so generosity, not accumulation, becomes the measure of my security and joy.

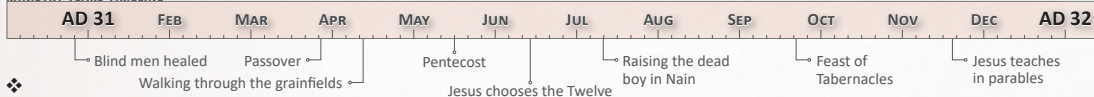
1. How does the Jerusalem delegation try to discredit Jesus, and what does he expose about their motives?
2. Where do human traditions begin to replace God’s commands in this scene?
3. Why does Jesus move the discussion from washed hands to the condition of the heart?
4. Where might your spiritual routines mask what God wants to cleanse within?

Day 2 – The Rich Fool: True Wealth

Chapter 14:16–20

5. What problem is Jesus actually addressing when asked to arbitrate an inheritance?
6. How does the parable reframe security, success, and the purpose of abundance?
7. What does being “rich toward God” look like in practice?
8. How could your savings, plans, and possessions become tools for kingdom generosity this week?

MINISTRY YEARS TIMELINE



Day 3 – Seek First the Kingdom

Chapter 14:21–22

9. What anxieties does Jesus confront, and what promise replaces them?

10. How do treasure and heart travel together?

11. Why does selling and giving to the needy store “treasure in Heaven”?

12. Which one concrete rehearsal (budget, habit, gift) will help you seek the kingdom first?

Day 3 Truth:

Seek the kingdom first.

Day 3 Scripture:

Luke 12:31

“Seek God’s kingdom first, and he will give you everything you need.”

Day 3 Prayer:

King Jesus, reorder my priorities around your reign; teach my heart to treasure what you treasure and to trust your faithful provision.

Day 4 – Be Ready for the Master

Chapter 14:23–24

13. What details of lamps, belts, and doors paint a picture of readiness?

14. How does the Master’s surprising table-service invert status and reward?

15. Why is the Son of Man’s timing purposely unexpected?

16. What would “lamps burning” look like in your prayers, schedule, and service today?

Day 4 Truth:

Stay awake and ready.

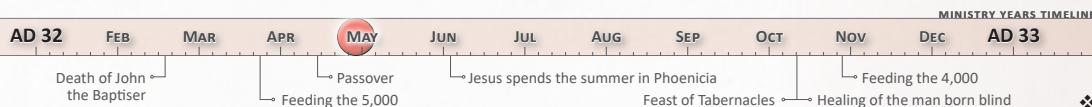
Day 4 Scripture:

Luke 12:40

“The Son of Man will come when you least expect it.”

Day 4 Prayer:

Master, keep my lamp burning; make my work, watchfulness, and worship faithful so your return finds me joyfully at my post.



Day 5 – Stewardship and Discernment

Chapter 14:25–28

Day 5 Truth:

Greater light, greater accountability.

Day 5 Scripture:

Luke 12:48

“To the servant who has been given much, much will be required in return.”

Day 5 Prayer:

Holy One, match my knowledge with obedience; convert insight into service, influence into care for others, and authority into humble faithfulness.

17. What distinguishes the faithful from the unfaithful servant?

18. How does accountability scale with knowledge and responsibility?

19. Why does Jesus call the crowd to read the “signs of the times”?

20. Where do you need to turn knowledge into obedient action—and name the first step?

Day 6 – What Truly Defiles

Chapter 14:29–33

Day 6 Truth:

Defilement flows from the heart.

Day 6 Scripture:

Mark 7:21

“For from within, out of the heart, come evil thoughts.”

Day 6 Prayer:

Create in me a clean heart, O God; cleanse my speech, desires, and motives, and let the fruit of your Spirit crowd out every corrupt thing.

21. Why does Jesus call the Pharisees “blind guides,” and what danger follows?

22. How does his explanation re-locate purity/defilement from externals to the heart?

23. Which inside list item (e.g., greed, slander, pride) do you sense the Spirit spotlighting?

24. What confession and concrete practice will cooperate with God’s cleansing work?

MINISTRY YEARS TIMELINE

