

Lost in Translation: Jesus Never Declared “All Foods Clean”

Context: Pharisees criticize Jesus and his followers for “eating with unwashed hands ...”
Based on “oral

Mark 7:14 And he called the people to him again, and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him.” ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house, and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters, not his heart but his stomach, and so passes on?” **(Thus he declared all foods clean.)** ²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a man is what defiles a man. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.” Revised Standard Version

KJV: thereby purging all meats.”

American Standard Version: *This he said*, making all meats clean.

NASB: (*Thereby* He declared all foods clean.)

Literal: “For it does not enter into the heart but into the stomach, and then goes out into the latrine, cleansing all foods.” (καθαρίζων πάντα τὰ βρώματα)

Ritual defilement connected with the Temple (blood, sex, death) is not the same as the meat of various species of animals declared “unclean” to the Israelites. Criteria: cud & split hoofs; fins and scales; non-carrion birds, etc.

Deut 14: 3-21 (see Lev 11): not to eat any “abominable thing” (תועבה) *to'evah*
These are “unclean” (טמא) *tame'* to you...idea of “defilement”