

MARK 7

Traditions and Commandments

1 [For ver. 1-30, see Matt. 15:1-28] Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes ch. 3:22 who had come from Jerusalem, 2 they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were [Acts 10:14; Rom. 14:14] {Gk.} defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, 7:3 Greek unless they wash the hands with a fist, probably indicating a kind of ceremonial washing holding to Gal. 1:14; Col. 2:8 the tradition of Heb. 11:2 the elders, 4 and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. 7:4 Greek unless they baptize; some manuscripts unless they purify themselves And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as Heb. 9:10; [John 2:6] the washing of Matt. 23:25; Luke 11:39 cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches. 7:4 Some manuscripts omit and dining couches) 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to [See ver. 3 above] the tradition of [See ver. 3 above] the elders, Luke 11:38 but eat with [See ver. 2 above] defiled hands?” 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you Matt.

23:13 hypocrites, as it is written,

Cited from Isa. 29:13; [Ezek. 33:31] “This people honors me with their lips,

but their heart is far from me;

- ***The Pharisees were again concerned with being “clean”***
 - ***But this clean was more about the ceremony than actually being purified.***
 - ***They were concerned with the actions that other people could see them do and assume they were pure***
- ***Jesus disciples did not was in the way the Jewish customs had set.***

- *Mark writes that there were several ceremonial washings the Pharisees focused on*
- *It would seem that the Pharisees were asking out of concern for the disciples and the others around them, but look closely at the question.*
 - *“Why do your disciples???”*
 - *The pharisees were in their own subtle way taking a shot at Jesus, by pointing out that His followers were not taught to follow the Hebrew Customs*
 - *Who did they imply dropped the ball and failed to teach them?*
 - *Jesus*
 - *And they asked why they don’t “walk” in the way.*
 - *They missed the point of the heart being clean.*
 - *They were overly focused on doing the small, unimportant things right, but they neglected to take care of the big things that people wouldn’t see.*
- *Jesus of course went right to the heart of their problem.*
 - *They said and did an extraordinary amount to show everybody how holy they were,*
 - *But, they failed to do things to prepare their hearts before they got around others*

7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as Col. 2:22; Titus 1:14 doctrines the commandments of men.’

8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

9And he said to them, “You have a fine way of Luke 7:30; Gal. 2:21 (Gk.); Heb. 10:28 (Gk.) rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! 10For Moses said, Cited from Ex. 20:12 ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, Cited from Ex. 21:17 ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 11But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God) 7:11 Or an offering — 12then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, 13thus Gal. 3:17 (Gk.); [Rom. 2:23] making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

- **Jesus said their worship was in vain, useless, pointless, worthless.**
 - **Because they traded God’s law for their societies norms.**
 - **They were teaching commands that men made, and saying they were God’s law.**
 - **Our traditions do not equal, much less overrule God’s commands.**
- **The Pharisees had the problem of doing what was best for the synagogues and themselves over the commands of God**
 - **Instead of following the 5th commandment, they were allowing people to not take care of their parents in order to devote the money to God.**
 - **We saw earlier in Mark that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath**
 - **In the same line of thinking: our resources are to take care of people more than buildings**
 - **Our parents and family are our responsibility to take care of**

- ***We don't allow our parents to suffer so we can give more to the church.***
- ***Jesus said the pharisees were allowing this and many more***
 - ***We must be sure that we don't let our worship of God lose it's power because we're neglect to serve people around us***
 - ***Love God, Love People***
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What Defiles a Person

14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, [Matt. 13:51] **Hear me, all of you, and understand:** 15 [See Acts 10:14, 15] **There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.** [7:15 Some manuscripts add verse 16: *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear*] 17 And when he had entered [ch. 9:28] the house and left the people, [Matt. 13:36; 15:15] his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, **Then [ch. 8:17, 18] are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart [1 Cor. 6:13] but his stomach, and is expelled?"** [7:19 Greek goes out into the latrine] ([Luke 11:41; Acts 10:15; 11:9] Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, [Matt. 12:34; James 3:6] **What comes out of a person is what defiles him.** 21 **For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, [Matt. 5:22, 28; See Ex. 20:13, 14, 17 murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, [2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 2 Pet. 2:7; Jude 4] sensuality, [See Matt. 6:23 (Gk.)] envy, [Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; 1 Tim. 6:4] slander, [See Luke 1:51] pride, [Eph. 5:17] foolishness. 23 [1 Cor. 6:9, 10] All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."**

- ***The things we eat do not corrupt us***
 - ***The corrupt is already there.***
 - ***Inside of each of us in a seed that has the enormous potential to do great evil***
 - ***The worst sins/crimes you can imagine are in us and have the ability to come out***
 - ***Think of the worst thing you have heard of or seen and know that deep inside of you there is the capability to do just as bad.***
 - ***Jesus and Holy Spirit help us from following through with it, but the capacity for horrible sins is in us***
- ***Our hearts expose us for who we are when we are responding without thinking.***
 - ***When we are reacting to events, situations, and circumstances.***
 - ***When we act out on these impulses we are defiled***
 - ***When we let the evil in our heart move us, we are in exposed.***

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. [7:24 Some manuscripts omit and Sidon] And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. 25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. 26 [John 12:20, 21] Now the woman was a [1 Cor. 12:13] Gentile, [Acts 21:2, 3] a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And he said to her, **“Let the children**

be [Acts 3:26; Rom. 1:16] fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and [Matt. 7:6] throw it to the dogs." 28But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's [Luke 16:21] crumbs." 29And he said to her, "For this statement you may [John 4:50] go your way; the demon has left your daughter." 30And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

- ***This is a tough passage***
- ***Jesus tries to hide, but the same way the sun can't be covered up by a basket, Jesus and His wonder can't be hidden***
 - ***He didn't go to a Synagogue, but a private house***
 - ***He tried to be hidden, he was there to give a glimpse of power among the gentiles***
- ***This lady comes begging for her daughter***
 - ***His response: "it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."***
 - ***This seems harsh and cold hearted, even seems like it has a touch of racism attached to it***
 - ***But, Jesus always pushed and tried the faith and humility of people, think about the rich young ruler***
 - ***Jesus doesn't answer with easy feel good answers***
 - ***He answered people with hard answers and those who stayed were proven true***
 - ***Those who left did not pass the test***
 - ***I imagine Jesus knew the struggles and strengths of this woman***
 - ***He knew how she felt deep inside about the animosity between the Jews and Gentiles***

- ***Perhaps she was extremely bitter about the treatment she received and hated Jews, so Jesus called her from that***
- ***Or maybe she had such extraordinary humility that Jesus knew she could be a lesson for all who heard her to think about themselves less, and others more***
- ***Either way she answered the question marvelously***
- ***She acknowledged her lack of ability, how much she didn't deserve anything from Jesus,***
 - ***But she also acknowledged how great just a tiny crumb from Jesus would be***
 - ***She realized that He in her life in any amount was everything she needed.***
- ***We would do well to learn from her.***

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

31 [For ver. 31-37, [Matt. 15:29-31]] Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to [Matt. 4:18; John 6:1] the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the [ch. 5:20; Matt. 4:25] Decapolis. 32 And they brought to him [Isa. 35:5, 6] a man who was deaf and [Isa. 35:5, 6] had a speech impediment, and they begged him to [See ch. 5:23] lay his hand on him. 33 And [ch. 8:23] taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and [ch. 8:23] after spitting touched his tongue. 34 And [See ch. 6:41] looking up to heaven, [ch. 8:12; [John 11:33]] he sighed and said to him, ***“Ephphatha,”*** that is, ***“Be opened.”*** 35 [See ver. 32 above] And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 And [ch. 9:9; See Matt. 8:4] Jesus [7:36 Greek *he*] charged them to tell no one. But [ch. 1:45; Matt. 9:31] the more he charged them, the more

zealously they proclaimed it. 37And they were ch. 10:26 astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

- ***The Decapolis was the region Jesus cast out the Legion of demons and left the man there to tell his family and friends.***
 - ***Jesus comes back and it seems that the man left there had been doing work***
 - ***When Jesus came back, instead of being afraid and asking him to leave they were bringing people to him***
- ***This poor man was in bad shape***
 - ***Not only could he not speak, but he couldn't talk***
 - ***He had no way to explain himself, he had no way to tell what was on his mind***
 - ***He was in a sense trapped inside his body.***
- ***Thank you, Jesus for allowing us to hear and speak your word***
 - ***Let us never take it for granted, and please don't allow us to stop from speaking your truth.***
- ***Jesus used an unusual method on this healing***
 - ***But it wasn't some magical combination of things***
 - ***It was a visual expression of what was happening***
 - ***Usually Jesus said to be healed, but this patient couldn't hear a prayer or praise to God***
 - ***Jesus did what this man could see, with his hands, fingers, spit, he sighed, and spoke one word, and I'm guessing the man's first word was "opened"***
- ***Nobody could speak badly of a man who healed deaf and mute people***

- ***There was nothing to gain, this healed man would be rich***
 - ***But it would only silence people more and more who tried to find fault with Jesus***
- ***The proof of Jesus's heart condition was the actions pouring out of him into the lives of everyone around him.***
 - ***Your actions prove the condition of your heart as well,***
 - ***Consider them,***
 - ***What's the condition of your heart?***
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