

Mark 7

LW – Death/John the Baptist, Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walking on Water, Touching/Healing so many!

V1-5

V1 – Pharisees & Scribes had come from Jerusalem to no doubt stir up trouble such as in the past

- * Traditions of the Elders – washing hands, cups, pitchers; Mk 2:24/Plucking Grain; Mark 3 – Healing/Sabbath?
- * Oral Tradition become more authoritative than Word; Man's Words above God's word
- * Kosher laws! - **Exodus 23:19, 34:26; Dt 14:21** - You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

V6-7

- * So, Jesus responds and calls them hypocrites and quote Isaiah's words to justify his accusation.
- * Hypocrites – actor or stage player, pretender
- * Hypocrites because they honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him!

V8-13

- * Lay aside/reject the commandments of God – to hold to/keep the tradition of men, “your tradition”
 - * Making the Word of God of no effect! It is double trouble! Keep man's tradition, Don't keep God's Word!
 - * This is the danger of religious tradition! Religion & Denominationalism becoming an end of themselves
- Colossians 2:20-23** ²⁰Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— ²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” ²²which all concern things which perish with the using— according to the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- * Religion makes people Self-Righteous, God's word makes people right with Him!

V14-23

- * Goes back to their accusation – Eating with Defiled Hands (V2) - Unclean
 - * Food enters the stomach and is eliminated – Evil is in a man's heart and comes out of his mouth
 - * **Jesus said what is in our stomach is not the issue – It's what is in our heart! It must be cleansed!**
- Jeremiah 17:9** ⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”
- Jeremiah 4:14** ¹⁴O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?
- Jeremiah 2:22** ²²For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me,” says the Lord God.
- * Religion is dangerous because it washes the outside of cup/person - without cleansing the inside!
 - * But Jesus washes the inside!

John 13:3-11 – Jesus washing the feet of the disciples...He used the outward, to show the need inward!

Application – Will we allow Jesus to cleanse us!

V24-30

- * Tyre/Sidon – Modern day Lebanon
 - * The Woman – Greek = Gentile; Syro-Phoenician = Syrian living in Phoenicia
 - * Kept asking – Matthew details a dialogue between Jesus/Woman;
 - * Little children – Children of Israel; Given to the little dog – Derogatory name Israelites used for Gentiles
- Matthew 15:24** ²⁴But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
- * How He treats her seems out of character!!! Why did he treat her like this??? But He heals her!!!
 - * Jesus had just taught his disciples a lesson in Compassion w/feeding 5,000
 - * The Pharisees & Scribes had come up and were stirring up trouble...
 - * Great time to take the disciples out for another discipleship spin & show His compassion on one of the “least”
- Application** – What a great example of compassion for us toward unexpected recipient? & one of the “least”!

V31-37

- * They wanted him to put His hand on him
- * Jesus takes him away from the multitude, stuck his fingers in his ears, spat & touched his tongue
- * Looking up into heaven, He sighed and said to the man, “Be opened” – Healed!

Questions:

1. Why do you think they begged Jesus to “put his hand on him”? Because that’s how you do it!!!
 - What did Jesus do? Did it work?
 - How is one baptized? Sprinkled/Immersion, Forward/Backward, Pool/Baptismal?
2. Why did Jesus look into heaven?

Mark 6:41 ⁴¹And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.

John 11:41 ⁴¹Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

John 17:1 ¹Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

- Can I ask you a question then? Why do we bow our heads when we pray? Fold our hands? Close our eyes?
3. What did Jesus say to this man? Be Opened. Notice anything funny about that? V32 – He was deaf!
 - Why are we afraid to pray the unthinkable? Try the undoable in Jesus’ name?

Application - How religious are we, is our walk, are our prayers, are our expectations of God?!?!?!?

Conclusion –

1. Do you believe the words of Jesus more than man’s words of Religion?

Mark 7:14-15 “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

2. How ready are you to share Jesus with someone out of your normal comfort zone?

To show compassion on one of the least of these?

How ready are YOU to receive Christ’s compassion, healing and allow Him so set you free? Wash you???

3. How religious are we, is our walk, our prayers, our expectations of God, and our communion...

- Who gets to take communion? How often? Method – Chalise, Wafer; Loaf/Bowl, Water/Wine/Juice???

- * All these man made traditions often take precedence over the word of God, & separate & divide!!!

Communion

- * Why do you take communion?

1 Corin 11:23-26 – The reason why we take communion

- * Is this the reason we take it, or do we just take it?

Matthew 26:28 ²⁸For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.