

Sermon-Based Discussion

DATE 7/10/2022

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SCRIPTURE: MARK 7:1-23

Followers of Tradition

1The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, **2**and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. **3**(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, *thus* observing the traditions of the elders; **4**and *when they come* from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) **5**The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?”

6And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,
BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

7‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’

8“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

9He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

10“For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’; **11**but you say, ‘If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God); **12**you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; **13***thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

The Heart of Man

14After He called the crowd to Him again, He *began* saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: **15**there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. **16**“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”]

17When he had left the crowd *and* entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. **18**And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, **19**because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (*Thus He* declared all foods clean.) **20**And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. **21**“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, **22**deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well* as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. **23**“All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

Other Scripture: Proverbs 4:23, Galatians 5:16-25, Luke 11:37-41

Group Discussion & Life Challenge

Use these notes as discussion prompts for your group, or in your personal time with God.

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight

1. Do you typically see spiritual practices as a task to complete or a way to be transformed?
2. When you think of those around you, do you think of external or internal aspects to describe them?
3. Is it easy or hard for you to ask people how they are doing in their relationship with God? Why?
4. How are you allowing others to encourage and influence you in your journey to spiritual maturity?
5. What does it look like to rely on God's power daily to change and transform us?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS