

“Truly Clean”
Mark 7:1-23
6/9/24
Message 17

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Truly Clean”

- **Review - Chapter 6**

- **1st The Cost Of Being A Disciple (Mark 6:1-13)**
 - The Rejection That Can Happen vs. 1-6
 - The Reliance On Jesus That Is Needed vs. 7-13
- **2nd Discipleship Means Trusting Jesus (Mark 6:14-56)**
 - Trusting Jesus By Dedicating Our Life To Him Even If It Means Death vs. 14-29
 - Trusting Jesus To Meet Our Daily Needs vs. 30-44
 - Trusting Jesus In Difficult Circumstances vs. 45-56
- **3rd Discipleship Means Keeping Your Eyes On Jesus (Mark 6:45-52 & Matthew 14:22-33)**
 - The Example Jesus Gives On The Importance Of Prayer (Matthew 14:22-23)
 - The Disciples Experience In The Storm (Matthew 14:24-26)
 - The Encouragement Jesus Gives Us In The Storm (Matthew 14:27)
 - Peter’s Encounter With Jesus On The Water (Matthew 14:28-31)

- They Finally Believe the Extent Of His Power (Matthew 14:32-33)

- **Now this morning we will look at 4 Wonderful Truths about being Truly Clean**

- The Criticism From The Pharisees vs. 1-5
- The Correction That Jesus Gives vs. 6-13
- The Challenge Jesus Gives vs. 14-16
- The Confusion Of His Disciples vs. 17-23

The Criticism From The Pharisees vs. 1-5

- **First: The Fault Finding vs. 1-2**

- **1st Having Come From Jerusalem v. 1**

Mark 7:1 (NKJV)

1 *Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem.*

- **Jesus is still in the Northern part of Israel - the Galilee area.**

- Word had reached the religious leaders in the South (Jerusalem)
- So They send a delegation of religious scholars
 - To question Jesus about His teachings and His practices.

- **This is Not the First Time**

- We saw a previous delegation in Mark 3:22

Mark 3:22 (NKJV)

22 *And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."*

- They pronounced a harsh condemnation against Jesus.

- **Please Note – They had an Agenda**

- This Current Delegation from Jerusalem
- Has already made up their mind about Jesus
- Is looked for something to confirm their opinion.

- **Application**

- **To Evaluate Jesus' ministry was fine!**

- It actually very GOOD
- They are the religious leaders of the day
 - Were responsible to KNOW what is going on!
 - Are their false teachers coming into our country!

- **The Problem**

- The way they did it was WRONG
- 1st They already made up their **Mind** about Jesus
 - They did not want to hear anything that would change their minds
 - Their mind was already made up
- 2nd They Evaluated Jesus By their **Traditions over the Word**
 - Which Jesus was not a fan of
 - To evaluated a person by traditions or anything else BUT the WORD – is to guarantee that you get the wrong answer

- **We MUST ALL Be Bereans**

Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- We are ALL to evaluate ALL Bible Teaching does it line up!
 - I have NO problem at all when people have evaluated me based on the WORD
 - I am not perfect – never will be this side of Heaven
 - So I need good godly men and women checking up on me
- The Hard Part –
 - Most of the criticism that has come my way has not been based on the Word –
 - But on people's frustrations
 - This is what is taking place with Jesus
- **2nd But eat bread with unwashed hands v. 2**

Mark 7:2 (NKJV)

2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.

- **Context**
 - So - Here the Pharisees notice the disciples not washing their hands like THEY believe they should
- **Now quickly**

- This does not mean they did not wash up
 - They just did not wash up like they wanted
 - **This is not a matter of personal hygiene but of Religious Ritual**
- They are JUST Looking for Reason to be Upset –
 - To cast doubt on Jesus and His ministry

• **Second: Followed Tradition vs. 3-5**

- **1st Holding the Tradition Of The Elders v. 3-4**

Mark 7:3–4 (NKJV)

3 *For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a **special way, holding the tradition of the elders.***

4 *When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.*

- **1st These Washings were Commanded by Tradition - NOT by Scripture!**

- **The Command To Wash in Scripture**

- Has everything to do with the Priest (Exodus 30:19; 40:12)
 - The Biblical command that all priests must wash their hands
 - To show a clean heart to worship God
- Late to Appear PIOUS
 - All “Pious” Jews began to do it about 200 years before Christ.

- It was seen as requirement for those who wanted to be “clean.”

- **The Traditions Came from - The Mishnah**

- **During the late 2nd Century AD**

- Oral teachings (traditions) were written down in what was called the Mishnah

- The book is Divided 6 ways

- Agriculture

- Festivals

- Marriage

- Civil Life

- Crime

- Ceremonies

- To the Mishnah was added a Commentary called the Gemara (guh – maa – ruh)

- Together the Mishnah & the Gemara (guh – maa – ruh)

- Formed the Talmud.

- These contained 248 commandments “thou shalts!”

- And 365 prohibitions (“thou shalt nots!”)

- **The Importance of the Mishnah**

- Many Jewish leaders of Jesus’ time honored the oral law even more than the written law.

○ Wiersbe - *"Rabbi Eleazer said, 'He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come'... The Mishna, a collection of Jewish traditions in the Talmud, records, 'It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict Scripture itself.'"*

○ They said - "Tradition is a fence around the law."

- Tradition, as the Jews saw it, protected God's Holy Word and assisted his people in keeping it.

- **Some of the Crazy Traditions In the Mishnah**

- **Sabbath**

- Looking in the mirror was forbidden

- Because if you looked into the mirror on the Sabbath day and saw a gray hair, you might be tempted to pull it out and thus perform work on the Sabbath.

- Spit on the Sabbath

- But you had to be careful where.
- If it landed on the dirt and you scuffed it with your sandal, you would be cultivating the soil and thus performing work.

- **Washing**

- They had a Whole Section on Washing Before Eating!

- 30 Chapters

- Some 186 pages
- In their Traditions
 - Here is what they were supposed to do!
 - The water was first poured on both hands
 - Held with the fingers pointed upwards
 - The Water must run up the arm as far as the wrist.
 - It must drop off from the wrist, for the water was now itself unclean, having touched the unclean hands, and, if it ran down the fingers again, it would again render them unclean.
 - The process was repeated with the hands held in the opposite direction, with the fingers pointing down; and then finally each hand was cleansed by being rubbed with the fist of the other.
 - A really strict Jew would do all this, not only before a meal, but also between each of the courses
- **Breaking this tradition was a pretty serious thing:**
 - Rabbi Jose; “whoever eats bread without washing of hands, is as if he lay with a whore”
 - Rabbi Eleazer; “whoever despiseth washing of hands, shall be rooted out of the world.”

- One rabbi who once failed to perform the ritual washing was excommunicated.
- Another rabbi was imprisoned by the Romans, and he used his ration of water for ceremonial cleansing instead of drinking, nearly dying of thirst. He was regarded as a great hero for this sacrifice.
- 2nd Why Do Your Disciples Not Walk According to Traditions v. 5

Mark 7:5 (NKJV)

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

- **They were not following the TRADITIONS - This Washing Ritual**
 - All they could find!
 - So A delegation of religious leaders from Jerusalem travel 100 miles to check Jesus out.
 - They had to look very hard and finally they settled on the issue of Ceremonial washing?!! Haha

The Correction That Jesus Gives vs. 6-13

• **First: Based On Prophecy vs. 6-7**

- **1st You Hypocrites vs. 6-7**

Mark 7:6–7 (NKJV)

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

- **1st Jesus Spoke Strongly**

- Of you Hypocrites
 - Greek: Hupokrités; gen. hupokritoú, masc. noun from hupokrínomai (5271)
 - Means
 - To act as a hypocrite
 - A hypocrite, one who acts pretentiously
 - A counterfeit
 - A man who assumes and speaks or acts under a feigned character / An Actor
- Why Was He so concerned
 - They were too concerned with trivial matters like ritual washing
 - Teaching them as doctrine
 - They excluded everyone who didn't keep the traditions
 - They discouraged them from coming to God.

▪ **2nd This people honors Me with their lips:**

- Quoting Isaiah 29:13

Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

- Yes, they honored God with their lips

- But in fact, God said of them their heart is far from Me.
- It is possible to have the image of being religious or spiritual
 - But actually, be far from God.
 - This was exactly the case with these religious leaders.
 - Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

21 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

22 *Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’*

23 *And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

▪ **3rd Application**

● **HEART PROBLEM**

- We too should take this verse very serious!
- Are we Guilty?!
 - We say with our lips
 - But our hearts are far from Him
- When we Worship God
 - We Sing – I Surrender ALL –
 - BUT we are Holding on to things
 - Well what does ALL really mean

- We Sing – Hungry
 - Hungry I come to You – BUT the reality we are full of the world and have little hunger for GOD
- We Sing - I Love You Lord
 - But we have hatred in our hearts for another believer
 - We gossip and tear them down
- So the first problem is a heart problem
 - Saying all the right things but the heart is far from the Lord
 - Going thru the motions – but there is no fire
- Please make sure
 - We don't worship God with Our lips BUT our hearts are far from HIM

• **Second: Based On Problems In Their Lives vs. 8-9**

- **1st Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men v. 8**

Mark 7:8 (NKJV)

8 *For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”*

- **This is one of the pillars of legalism**
 - Tradition on the same level as God's Word
 - It gives man's word the same weight as God's word.

- We BEST be careful – We must not go beyond God's Word

- **2nd You reject the commandment of God v. 9**

Mark 7:9 (NKJV)

9 He said to them, *“All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.*

- **This is another pillar of legalism.**

- It's bad enough to add the commandments of men
 - To the Word of God.
- They Go further
 - To reject the commandment of God and to keep your tradition.

- **3rd Application**

- **TRADITION ABOVE TRUTH**

- There is a big difference between Tradition & Truth!
 - Tradition is Outward
 - Truth is Inward
 - Tradition has to do with Ritual
 - Truth has to do with Reality.
 - Tradition is something you keep
 - Truth is something that keeps you.
- We can Make Traditions out of
 - **Attending church**

- I attend Church every Sunday
 - We make it a badge of honor
- But when we attend our heart are far from HIM
 - Instead of worshiping the Lord our minds are on a thousand's things
 - Why are there 3 different floors in the foyer
 - Why didn't so and so say hello – I hope they aren't made at me
 - I am really upset that this person has done this...
- **Bible Ready**
 - I read the Bible in a year every year!
 - But our hearts are still far from Him
 - And our lives have not changed
- **Prayer**
 - But our hearts are far from Him
- **Contribute money**
 - But our hearts are far from Him
- **Ministry**
 - But our hearts are far from Him

• **Third: Based On Their Practices vs. 10-13**

- 1st For Moses said vs. 10-13

Mark 7:10–13 (NKJV)

- 10** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’
- 11** But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God),
- 12** then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,
- 13** making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

▪ **The Command to HONOR**

Exodus 20:12 (NKJV)

- 12** “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 21:17 (NKJV)

- 17** “And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Ephesians 6:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2** “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:
- 3** “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

- Young Children at home
 - They are also responsible to obey their parents.
- Older Children out of the Home
 - They are still responsible to honor.

▪ **Corban**

- A Practice where a son could say that his possessions or savings were Corban
 - That they have ALL been given to the LORD

- Therefore they are unavailable to help his parents.
 - *MacArthur; “A Hebrew term meaning, “given to God.” It refers to any gift or sacrifice of money or goods an individual vowed to dedicate specifically to God. As a result of such dedication, the money or goods could be used only for sacred purposes.*
- What is Worse
 - As they dishonored their parents
 - They would celebrate how wonderful they were
 - **THUS - Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition**
 - Through this, a son could completely disobey the command to honor your father or mother and do it while being ultra-religious.
 - Jesus called this making the word of God of no effect through your tradition.
 - **2nd Application**
 - **God has a heart for Families!**
 - We are to HONOR our PARENTS
 - So Proud of our church taking care of our parents
 - It was an honor taking care of my mom
 - It was not always easy – BUT we made it through and it was the right thing to do

- HONORING our PARENTS BY
 - **Spending Time with them**
 - Make time to be with them
 - Include them in the family activities
 - Illustration
 - Care Home –
 - Most families don't visit
 - Our Culture has a sad mindset
 - Throw them away
 - Put them in a home
 - Pay a few hard working people minimum wage to take care of them
 - And barely show up to love on them
 - We THANK GOD for the hard-working gals at Pine Creek
 - **Providing for - If Needed**
 - Illustration
 - The practice of taking care of widows in the church
 - Family was responsible first

1 Timothy 5:4–5 (NKJV)

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

- Failure to Honor them by not taking care of them

1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- Family comes first.
- Support your family.

The Challenge Jesus Gives vs. 14-16

• First: Hear & Understand vs. 14-16

○ 1st Calling The Multitudes v. 14

Mark 7:14 (NKJV)

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “**Hear Me, everyone, and understand:**

- Jesus Called the Multitudes
 - Let me tell you a very important truth!
 - HEAR ME – UNDERSTAND Me

○ 2nd There is nothing that enters a man v. 15

Mark 7:15 (NKJV)

15 **There 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.**

- Jesus made the Revolutionary Statement

- It was not what goes into a man's mouth that defiles him
 - (Such as food eaten with unwashed hands)
- But what comes out of man
 - (Such as traditions that set aside God's Word)
- A person is not defiled morally by what he eats
 - Even if his hands are not ceremonially washed.
- A person is defiled morally by what he thinks in his heart
 - Even though he may carefully observe outward purity rituals.
- Jesus' POINT

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (NKJV)

9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

10 *I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*

- The source of SIN – The Human HEART

▪ **Application**

- Man is not inherently good and becomes bad because of what happens to him
- Man is inherently EVIL and ONLY God can make him good
- This still bring confusion in our world

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)

10 *As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;*

11 *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Psalm 51:5 (NKJV)

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

○ **3rd He Who Has An EAR v. 16**

Mark 7:16 (NKJV)

16 *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”*

- A Plea From Jesus!
 - Which He makes to His church in Revelation

The Confusion Of His Disciples vs. 17-23

• **First: Disciples Confused v. 17**

○ **1st His Disciples Asked v. 17**

Mark 7:17 (NKJV)

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable.

- The Disciples seem to be confused by what Jesus said
 - Showing us that the Traditions had a huge impact on them

• **Second: The Clarification Jesus Gives vs. 18-23**

○ **1st Are you thus without understanding also? v. 18-19**

Mark 7:18–19 (NKJV)

18 So He said to them, *“Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,*

19 *because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?”*

- Jesus amplified the point made to the multitudes.

- We are defiled from the inside out rather than from the outside in
 - This is particularly true of ceremonial things like foods.
- 2nd For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil vs. 20-23

Mark 7:20–23 (NKJV)

20 And He said, *“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.*

21 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

22 *thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.*

23 *All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*

▪ **God is far more concerned**

- With what comes out of us than what goes into us.
- This is especially true when it comes to foods and traditions and rituals.

▪ **The LIST...**

- Evil Thoughts
 - Greek: Dialogismoi hoi kakoi
 - Means:
 - Precedes the verb in the Greek text
 - Is viewed as the root of various evils which follow.
 - Evil thoughts generated in a heart unite with one's will to produce evil words and actions.

- At the CORE –
 - We Think the Evil and DO the Evil
- Adulteries, Fornications (All Sexual immorality)
 - Greek: Porneiai
 - Includes - All Sex outside of marriage
 - Sexual Sins
 - Pornography
 - Adultery
 - Fornication
 - Homosexual
 - Sexual Sins are Still SINS
 - Regardless what our culture says
- Murder
 - (moikeiai) are also condemned.
 - Difference between Murder & Kill
 - Death Penalty was given by God
- Theft
 - Greek: Klepai
 - Means: To steal. The act of stealing, theft (Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:22). The thing stolen is klémma (2809).
- Covetousness

- Greek: Pleonexai
 - Means: Is an appetite for what belongs to others.
- Wickedness
 - “Malice” – Greek: Poneriai
 - Means: Is a heart which is “completely equipped to inflict evil”
- Deceit
 - Greek: Dolos
 - Means: To bait, to deceive people.
- Lewdness
 - Greek: Aselgeia
 - Means: Involves plunging into moral debauchery in open defiance of public opinion
- An Evil Eye
 - “Envy” – Greek: Opthalmos
 - Means: Refers to an evil eye which watches another’s possessions
- Blasphemy
 - “Slander” – Greek: Blasphemia
 - Means: Can take the form of blasphemy against God or slander against men.
- Pride

- “Arrogance” – Greek: Hupereiphania
- Means: Is the sin of a self-praising person who has contempt for everyone but himself
- Foolishness
 - “Folly” – Greek: Aphrosune
 - Means: Describes a person who is desensitized morally and spiritually.
- **3rd The Problem In our World Today**
 - **1st Our Nation**
 - **The Problem**
 - First –
 - There is absolutely nothing wrong with Pastor pointing this out
 - Candidly –
 - I am bit sick of the silence coming from the pulpits
 - Or the statement –
 - “Just trust Jesus”
 - (as if I am not trusting Jesus by pointing out these things)
 - Or The statement –
 - “These thing must happen”
 - Yes I get it

- But we have a responsibility to be SALT and LIGHT until He takes us HOME
- We have very BAD people in charge of our nation
 - Who are taking us down a path of Marxism – It is EVIL
 - We Must stand against them
- We have a nation that Celebrates SINS
 - We desire to SEE ALL sinners come to Jesus
 - Sadly – When a Nation Celebrates Sin
 - The last step before a nation disappears to the history books is the celebration of sexual sins
 - We have a whole month set aside to celebrate homosexuality
- **The Solution**
 - We must win the Spiritual Battle
 - PRAY
 - PREACH the Gospel – Share Jesus
 - Engage Culture
 - Stand UP for Righteousness
 - Vote – do your best – not a lot to choose from
 - Don't be afraid to speak up

- We have NOTHING to ashamed of THE WORLD DOES
- They should be ashamed of the EVIL they are bringing into this Nation

- Illustration

- El Salvador's president Nayib Bukele
- Was all but wiped out the violent gang problem that plagued its country and made it one of the most dangerous places in the world.
- gang members wouldn't hesitate to kill anyone, from a woman on the streets to babies in Satanic rituals
- They PRAYED
- ***"Our impressive victory was because we won the spiritual war,"***
- **2nd The Problem with Church in our Nation**
 - The Modern church has become more Liberal / WOKE
 - Is afraid to address these issue
 - The Pulpit are Silent
 - Pastors think it cool to post pics smoking cigars drinking – attempting to look cool – they LOOK like FOOLS
 - The Church needs to repent
 - Stop making consumers and start making disciples

- **4th The Solution**

- The World Thinks
 - 1st Education, Culture
 - Can redeem the heart and society
 - 2nd Social Reforms
 - A new world order will not make it
 - KNOW this

- There is no power in the world which can make a bad heart good

- There is only answer: Regeneration!!!
 - You MUST be BORN Again John 3:3
 - The Only hope for MAN the gospel

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

- When People Come to Christ, Repent – Born Again
 - God says

Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV)

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Then you are TRULY CLEAN!!!

- No Traditions – Rituals
- Just Jesus making us NEW in CHRIST

Closing

- To be TRULY CLEAN – We must be Born again!
-