

Mark, Transformed (Week 6)

Review:

- Jesus chooses His disciples. “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (**Matthew 4:19**)
 - Faith is required to be a disciple. Jesus will lead you into ups and downs.
 - Here come the religious leaders...
 - Context: The *Mishnah* contains traditions of the Jewish leaders and Rabbis. It has 613 rules.
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Mark 7:1–23 ...⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.” ⁹And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—¹²then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that...”

- o Jesus gives us His (God’s) perspective.
 - o The bottom line: they worship in vain (God doesn’t hear it). **Why?**
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1. They said the right things to be seen by men, for advantage, not because they really had a heart for God. They were cleaning the outside the cup rather than inside.

Matthew 6:2–4 ²So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 23:25–27 ²⁵Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ²⁷Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

2. They replaced God’s law with man’s rules. The result: lost relationship.

- Notice who Jesus gives credit to for Moses’ writings. (vs 8-9)
- The Ten Commandments: Honor your father and mother
- *Corban*: set aside for God (not tithe, an offering). Their giving was a way to gain standing rather than because they loved God.
- God cares about your heart and why you do something more than what you do.
- Be careful that you hold to the Lord’s teachings, that you don’t add or take away from them. (**Revelation 22:18–19**)
- **They misunderstood God’s purposes for the law—to promote and protect relationship.**
 - o This makes God look silly or harsh—even evil.
 - o This pushes people away from God rather than revealing His love to them.

Mark 2:27 Matthew 22:37–40 Matthew 23:24

3. They focused on a works-based salvation rather than a salvation of grace.

- o I can clean myself, and should, if I am to be in right standing with God.
- o Remember John 6 and the conversation last week.

John 6:28–29 ²⁸Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Matthew 23:1–4 ¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ²“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.”

Matthew 23:13 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

- The Law gives us a way to live safely in community.
- The Law reveals the character of God—Holiness.
- The Sacrifices reveal that we cannot be Holy enough, so we need a sacrifice—the Lamb of God.

Galatians 3:23–24 _(NASB95) ²³But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

4. Jesus was so frustrated by the Pharisees because they were the leaders, and they not only had it wrong but also would not listen. They led people.

- The work of God is to believe. The act of believing is not a one time thing.
 - A. Focus on the Gospel and what it tells us.
 - o We are broken, but valuable.
 - o God loves us, and He sent Jesus to us to pay for our sin and to offer us relationship with Him.
 - o Take this in every day; communion with God.
 - B. Do the inside work first, and the outside work comes as a result.
 - o The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus has done and God’s love, and also of where we are off course.
 - o Our motives, or actions, come in conflict with God’s Word and Spirit. Do the work of cleaning spiritually.
 - o Confess when we are wrong, when we do things to be seen, when we find prejudice or hatred in our hearts.
 - C. Remember when you see wrong behavior, it comes from a spiritual problem—a wrong belief.
 - o Help people rather than judge them.

Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

1. What about the sermon challenged you?

A. How will that impact you this week?

As you read/listen to: Mark 7:24-8:26, be thinking about:

2. Who does Jesus interact with? What happens?
3. What about Jesus stands out? What questions do you have from this passage?
4. Personally, what stands out to you? How will this impact your relationships?
5. Share with someone what you are discovering. Invite them to share what they are learning from God and His word.

The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

June 17-June 23: **Mark 7:24-8:26**

June 24-June 30: **Mark 8:27-9:13**

July 1-July 7: **Mark 9:14-50**