

MARK 7:1-23

INTRO/OPENING: READ MK. 7:1-23

- This is the second time the Pharisees have come the 90 miles up from Jerusalem to confront and accuse Jesus. (3:22-30)
- Then they charged Him with casting out demons by the prince of demons, Beelzebub.
- To which Jesus warned them that doing so they were in danger of eternal damnation.
- These verses of Mk. 7:1-23, stand in contrast to the last 27 vs. of chpt 6.
- There Mark highlights the gathering of the disciples to the Lord, while here in this chapter Mark highlights the gathering unto the Lord of His adversaries. (6:30, 7:1)
- Some differences in Matt. account. Mt. 15:12-14
 - The disciples ask Jesus if He knew He had offended the Pharisees.
 - Vs. 13; there are plants that God did not sow. (Mt. 13:25 tares.)
 - Matt mentions it was Peter who asked the question regarding the parable.
- Here in VS. 1 we see the self-righteous Pharisees and the scribes coming unto Him.
- They did not come because of conviction, but to convict.
- Notice the specialty of the Pharisees when observing Jesus, "fault finding."
- It is always easy to find fault with others especially if you have a particular prejudice against them, or you are unhappy with yourself.
- Why not be part of an answer, rather than part of the problem.
- Why not build up rather than tear down. Anyone can tear down.
- There are many warnings in the bible about fault finding and murmuring along with critical spirit.
 - Num. 14:2, 29, 16:31 Korah, num. 21:5, 6, snakes, 1 Cor. 10:10.
- Let us be of those that build up and not tear down.
- VS. 13, have I made something that is holy vain, hollow, empty due to my dullness and repetition or tradition?
 - Church, prayer, meal prayer, communion.
- The Pharisees were not at all concerned about cleanliness or hygiene, but only tradition. The use of water or the amount of water was almost pointless, it was all about tradition.
- Notice also that the accusation was made about the conduct of the disciples and not Jesus, yet the aim of their negativity and accusations was Jesus for they said, "why do not YOUR disciples wash?"

- Jesus treats this lesson with great importance. First He calls everyone, to Himself, secondly He repeats the exhortation by saying, "hear Me everyone and understand, then lastly He confirms the importance of it by admonishing all, that is challenging all, to "have ears to hear." VS. 14, 16.

THE SUBJECT OF TRUE WORSHIP:

- Verses **1-8**? We come to the real heart of worship.
- Our whole lives are worship, either of ourselves or of God.
 - Col. 3: 23, 24, And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Rom. 12:1,
- We may sing, we may serve, we may do a lot of wonderful things which outwardly look holy and pious, but God looks on the heart. The motive.
- We must get beyond just lip service/worship.
- Do we realize that how we worship is a revelation, a display of what and how we think of God.
 - **SPROUL pg. 158, 159**
- Consider **JN. 4:20-24**. God is looking for true worshippers. Will I be one?
- The worship the Pharisees practiced was vain, hollow, and empty because it did not come from the heart, the inner man.

THE WARNING OF TRADITION:

- Vs. 5. The tradition of the elders is not a reference to the scriptures.
- The Jews at this time had the scriptures, but also a huge encyclopedia of oral traditions to follow
- When the bibles says "it is written" that is in reference to the scriptures, but if it is said, "the traditions of the elders, or you have heard it said," (Mt. 5:43, 44) it is in reference to the multitude of human rules and traditions.
- Jesus never challenged the scriptures, "it is written," but only the traditions of men.
- These written traditions were called the "Mishnah" which were included in the Talmud.
- 25% of the Mishnah was devoted to ritual cleansing and outward purity.
- The neglect of the rules of washing was classified as equally sinful with the breach of the most important of the 10 commandments; "he who does not wash his hands after eating is as bad as a murderer.
- It was even believed by some that there was a special devil who sat on the unwashed hands and would enter the body while eating if not properly washed according to the Mishnah.
- VS. **18 & 19**; What Jesus then spoke completely cut across a huge part of the Mishnah, and it seemed the disciples had bought in to some of it.

- **The Pharisees were so blind that they condemned Christ for the unclean actions of His disciples while they feasted on their evil thoughts and intentions of murdering Christ.**
- **They truly were the blind leading the blind. Much like the culture of today.**
- **Do you see a parallel or pattern of what is happening today in the culture with its new ever progressing standards of morality and right?**
- **And sadly and tragically creeping into the church under the curtain of love and tolerance.**
- **Society and government are beginning to press the Pharisees challenge to Jesus, which was to accept their man-centered humanistic, self-righteous judgement of right and wrong?**
- **That which God has immutably declared clearly in His word as right and wrong, good and evil have now been replaced by present day traditions of society and unholy, fallen man's morality.**
- **Jesus harkens back to the scriptures, they cannot change, God cannot change.**
- **What does the bible say????**

THE HEART OF THE MATTER:

- **VS. 19-21** reveal the real man of the heart, who one really is, the inner man.
- **What is within, the inner man, comes out and exposes what and who the person really is like.**
 - **Mt. 12:34-37** out of the heart...
 - **Prov. 4:23** keep your heart for out of it flows the issues of life.
 - **1 John 2:4, 5, 3:7, 8**
- **From the heart issues good or evil. See the list of sins in verses 21-23.**
- **We are what the inner man is, the inner man is who we really are. (Paul Tripp)**
- **For this cause we need inward washing and cleansing not external washing.**
- **Defilement is something that brings a person into debt to God. (21-23)**
- **It is not the hands that must be cleansed, it is the heart!**
- **Jesus plainly teaches us that our inability to be God pleasing is not an outward defilement, but an inward defilement, corruption, depravity.**
- **Cleansing ourselves or attempting to make ourselves acceptable before The Holy God is an impossibility.**
- **Jesus's message here is the inability for man to repair his depravity and fallen heart. The old heart must be replaced with a new. And this new heart must be kept clean, sanctified.**
- **We must have a new heart, we must be entirely made new, a new creature, a new creation, where old things pass away and all things become new. Not a reformation but a transformation.**
- **Ezek. 36:22-29, 2 Cor. 5:17..... A daily dying to self Gal. 5:16-24,**