

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 10

Mark 7:1 – 23

Review

- Baptism and Temptation (Mark 1:1-13)
- Year long ministry in Judea (John 1:19-4:45)
 - First Miracle in Cana – Water to wine; Cleansing of Temple; Encounter with Nicodemus; Woman at the well in Samaria
- Galilean Ministry (1:14-7:23)
 - Summary of Jesus Teaching
 - Calling the first disciples as fishermen
 - Healing a demoniac in Capernaum
 - Healing Simon's mother-in-law
 - Healing many people
 - Preaching tour through Galilee
 - Healing a Leper during the preaching tour
 - Healing a Paralytic
 - The Calling of Matthew
 - Conflict over fasting and parables of cloth and wineskin
 - Conflict over Sabbath work
 - Conflict over Sabbath healing
 - Teaching and healing great multitudes
 - Choosing the twelve
 - Opposition of Jesus' family
 - Opposition of the Scribes – the unpardonable sin
 - Jesus teaches in parables
 - Parable of the sower and soils
 - The purpose of parables
 - Explanation of the parable of the sower and soils
 - Parable of the lamp
 - Parable of the growing seed
 - Parable of the mustard seed
 - Summary statement on parables
 - Jesus calms the sea
 - Jesus heals the Gerasene Demoniac
 - Jesus heals a woman with a hemorrhage
 - Jesus raises Jairus' daughter
 - Jesus' last visit to Nazareth and rejection
 - Third teaching tour through Galilee
 - Sending out the twelve
 - Popular conceptions of Jesus' nature and John's fate recalled
 - The apostles return
 - Five thousand men fed
 - Four miracles – Jesus walks on water, Peter walks on water, sea calmed, boat transported
 - Multiple healings at Gennesaret

Conflict with Pharisees – True worship

¹The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, ²and 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; ⁴and *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.) ⁵The 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’; ¹¹but 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),’ ¹²you 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.”

- Another group of religious leaders came from Jerusalem (cf. 3:22) as they heard of His deeds and teaching. Jesus had many confrontations with the Jewish religious leaders (cf. 2:6, 2:16; 2:18; 2:18; 3:6; 3:22). This section returns to the conflict between Jesus and the “religious” elite of Israel even as He enjoyed public popularity.
- The Pharisees had seen that Jesus’ disciples were not obeying the “tradition of the elders”. They were eating with ceremonially impure (unwashed) hands. It had nothing to do with hygiene, but denoted whatever was contaminated according to religious rituals.
- Verses 3-4 is a paraphrase by Mark to explain the Jewish customs to his Roman, Gentile readers.
- The ritual washing regulations were observed by the Pharisees and all the Jews (a generalization depicting their custom) as part of the tradition of the elders which they followed scrupulously. These interpretations, designed to regulate every aspect of Jewish life, were considered as binding as the written Law and were passed on to each generation by faithful Law teachers (scribes). Later, in the third century A.D., the oral tradition was collected and codified in the Mishnah which, in turn, provided the foundation for and structure of the Talmud. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: NT
- Jesus condemns the Pharisees as hypocrites. A hypocrite is “an actor, a pretender”; A spiritual phony. One who puts on a mask and feigns himself to be what he is not. (Eastons Bible Dictionary)
- Jesus explains the heart of hypocrisy by quoting Isa 29:13 (LXX).
- ...honor with lips... ...heart is far from Me... ...vain worship... ...precepts of men...
- The Pharisees honored the Lord with their lips (outwardly), but inwardly their heart (devotion, commitment) was far from Him. They had rejected the “Shema” (Deut 6:4-5).

⁴“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deut. 6:4-5
- Their worship had become “vain” (futile, useless, of no purpose) and they were teaching the commands of men in the place of God’s Word.

- Hypocrites cannot worship God. Hypocrisy comes from a proud and self-righteous heart. True worship comes from a heart that is broken before the Lord.
 - ¹⁶For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.
 - ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Psa. 51:16-17
- The New Testament used the negative of hypocrisy (without hypocrisy or sincere) to describe three character qualities.
 - Love
 - ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Rom. 12:9a
 - Faith
 - ⁵But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Tim. 1:5
 - Wisdom – the knowledge and practice of the Scriptures for godly and upright living
 - ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. James 3:17
- Hypocrites neglect (abandon) the Word and hold to man-made traditions – they become experts at it. They are taken captive through empty deception.
 - ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col 2:8
- Jesus gave one of “many such” examples of abandoning the command of God.

The sinful heart of man

- ¹⁴After He called the crowd to Him again, He *began* saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there 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.
 - ¹⁸And 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, ¹⁹because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And 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, ²²deeds 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.”
- The Pharisees’ obsession with external piety led Jesus to clarify where the sin problem was – in the heart of people. Whatever proceeds from a person has its beginning in that person. “A person *is* defiled morally by what he thinks in his heart even though he may scrupulously observe outward purity rituals.” The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- Even though the OT prophets stated the sinfulness of the heart clearly (Jer 17:9-10), the Pharisees’ man-made religion focused on the external because it could do nothing to change the heart.

⁹ “The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it? Jer. 17:9

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Sam. 16:7

- A Jew who did not observe the Old Testament laws regarding clean and unclean food was defiled because his heart was hard in disobedience – not because of the food.
- Verse 16 does not appear in the best manuscripts.
- After leaving the crowd, privately the disciples asked concerning the nature of the heart. Food enters the stomach and then is eliminated. It does nothing to the moral center of a person.
- evil thoughts – The general term translated **evil thoughts** precedes the verb in the Greek text and 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. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- The first group of six emphasizes evil deeds.
 - Fornications (πορνεία) – Sexual immorality. Illicit sexual activities of various kinds.
 - Thefts
 - Murders
 - Adulteries – Illicit sexual relations by a married person.
 - Deeds of coveting – Greed. The craze for more and more. Insatiable cravings for what belongs to another.
 - Wickedness – Depravity, iniquity, evil purposes and desires. The many ways evil thoughts express themselves.
- The second group of six emphasizes evil character.
 - Deceit – Cunning maneuvers designed to ensnare someone for one's personal advantage.
 - Sensuality – Lewdness. Unrestrained and unconcealed (shameless) immoral behavior.
 - Envy – a begrudging, jealous attitude toward the possessions of others
 - Slander – Hurtful speech. Injurious or defaming speech against God or man
 - Pride – Arrogance (ὕψιστος, used only here in the NT), boastfully exalting oneself above others who are viewed with scornful contempt. Holding oneself above others, stuck up.
 - Foolishness – Lack of sense. Moral and spiritual insensitivity
- There are several other lists of sins in the New Testament.

¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor. 6:9-11

- The heart, the essence of a each person, is corrupted by sin. We are hopelessly lost and not able to do anything by ourselves that can make us right before God. We are not able to choose or do anything that is acceptable to God apart from His grace. The Scriptures describe each person as a sinner (Rom 3:23); having a wicked heart (Jer 17:9); not seeking God (Rom 3:10-12); separated from God (Isa 59:2); a slave of sin (Rom 6:15-23); dead in trespasses and sins, walking according to the ways of Satan, a child of wrath (Eph 2:1-3); father is the devil (John 8:44); blinded by Satan (2 Cor 4:3); under the domain (authority; house) of darkness (Col 1:13); under the power of Satan (1 John 5:19); and under the wrath of God (John 3:36).
- There is only one cure for this condition.

^{16c}For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

- If we have already repented and believed in the Gospel, then our goal is to walk in obedience and in opposition to the wickedness in our hearts. This involves:
- Recognize and repent of sin. – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... Eph 4:30
An attitude of the heart that is willing to always come under the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin and genuinely repent.
- Yield to God in every area of life. – Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thess 5:19)
An attitude of the heart that yields to God's Word.
- Immersion in the Word – Eph 5:18-21 and Col 3:16-4:1
The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to produce the will of God in a believer's life.