

Mrk24 – **We Are Hypocrites – Mark 7:1-23**

*Dave Shepardson, wordbymail.com*

**Have** you **ever heard** someone **complain**  
***“the church is full of Hypocrites” ??***

**Is it too soon** in the Msg – to **tell you** –  
To **SOME Extent** - **THEY'RE RIGHT**

**Today** we have - **A LESSON** on Being a **Hypocrite**  
**AN EXAMPLE** of Being a **Hypocrite**  
**& AN EXPLANATION** - of **what** to **DO about it**

The **previous back-to-back events** – are **DONE**  
Mark is **MOVING ON**

& he **returns today** – to a familiar **BATTLE**

& **that** is - the ongoing **BATTLE**  
Between **JESUS** - & **MAN'S RELIGION**

& **IN** that **Battle TODAY**

We **see** - that the **Pharisees** - were **HYPOCRITES**

**JUST LIKE US!**

**Let's Pray**

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We start today - with a TRANSITION

### Mark 7:1 (NLT)

*1 One day (there's the transition) some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus.*

The Religious Leaders

had come purposefully – From Jerusalem

& this is NO QUICK UBER RIDE

This is a THREE Day Walk – & Could Become  
a FOUR or FIVE DAY Walk – one way

& so - these "Teachers of Religious Law"  
must've really WANTED to SEE Jesus, Right?

Yeah – they did

They wanted to SEE something  
they could ATTACK Him for

They wanted to SEE something  
they could USE AGAINST Him

Very Similar  
to our POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT today

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& they **FOUND Something**  
they **felt** – they could **EASILY USE**

to **PROVE** - that **Jesus** was

**Obviously NOT RELIGIOUS**

& So - **Obviously NOT FROM GOD**

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**Here's** their **BIG** – **Earth-Shaking** - **DISCOVERY**

**Mark 7:2 (NLT)**

*2 They **noticed** that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish **ritual** of hand washing before eating.*

***Noooooo – Tell me it's NOT SO***

**Jesus** & his **Disciples** **Failed** to Follow

The **Religious** - **Ritual** - **Ceremonial** - **Hand-Washing**

That was **REQUIRED** by all **Good Religious People**

***All is LOST . . . All is LOST***

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<p>This is <b><u>SUCH</u></b> a <b><u>BIG DEAL</u></b> – that <b><u>Mark</u></b> has to <b><u>explain it</u></b> to his <b><u>Roman audience</u></b> – <b><u>AND</u></b> to <b><u>US</u></b></p>
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## **Mark 7:3 (NLT)**

**3** (notice the parenthesis) *(The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions.*

So - Let's **get** this **straight**

This is **NOT** about

**Washing** your **hands** with **soap**

**like** your **mother** told **you** to do - **before Dinner**

**This** is a **CEREMONIAL** Thing

**Developed** as a **CEREMONIAL** Ritual

To be done **CEREMONIALLY** **Before** every **meal**

**Developed** by **CEREMONIAL** Religious **Leaders**

To convey a **CEREMONIAL** Religious **Status**

of a **CEREMONIALLY** Religious **Person**

who **goes** thru this **Religious CEREMONY** – **CEREMONIAL**

**All of which** – is **NOT** **Required** by **God**

But by **CEREMONIAL** Religious **Traditions**

***Does THAT help clear it up?***

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**Then - Mark 7:4 continues (NLT)**

***4 Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)***

So – **What** we're **TALKING ABOUT** is

**Ceremonial Religious Traditions**

That the **Religious Leaders** taught as **Religious LAW**

**& Remember**

We're **NOT TALKING** about **God's LAW** here

**WE'RE TALKING** about **Man-Made Religious LAWS**

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**& So** - these **Religious leaders**  
**Really believe** – they're **ON** to **Something**

They **FEEL Like**  
they've **Really GOT** Jesus **Cornered**

**on** this - **ALL-IMPORTANT**  
**Religious Handwashing Ceremony**

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**& so – the Attack Begins - Mark 7:5 (NLT)**

***5 So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, “Why don’t your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony.”***

& they’re **thinking**

***Man, this is IT – We’ve GOT HIM***

**NOT Following the AGE-OLD TRADITIONS**

**NOT performing the RELIGIOUS Hand-Washing Ceremony**

These are **IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES** for sure

**We’re Gonna Hang Him Out to Dry – ON THESE**

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**Aren’t you GLAD**

we **DON’T SEE** this **type** of thing  
in **OUR CULTURE** today?

**We’ve come so far – Haven’t We ?**

**We’ve EVOLVED So Much as HUMANS – Haven’t We ?**

**NO – We absolutely HAVE NOT**

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The Religious Landscape - Jesus stepped into - THEN  
was the SAME as the Religious Landscape - TODAY

It was the SAME !!! – WHY ???

Because WE – As Humans – At our CORE  
Are the SAME TODAY as we were THEN

Because WE HAVE

The Same Sin-Nature - TODAY – as we did THEN

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MANY OF US

Who've been around the Church awhile

Are familiar with this Teaching

But - here's what I've found TOO OFTEN  
with these particular vs's

Too often - We Kinda – Secretly LOVE this teaching

Because it gives us the chance to POINT  
that BIG FOAM Football Finger

You know – that 3 foot high finger  
that you put on for the football game → →

We **LOVE** this **teaching**  
because **OFTEN** - **our Response** is

to **point** that **BIG 3 FOOT FINGER**  
**AT ALL THOSE HYPOCRITES** – **out there**

*Yeah Jesus*

*I hate **THOSE HYPOCRITES TOO** – Just like you do*

**You & Me Jesus**

**we** are **SOOOOOO HOLY**

I am **SO GLAD**

**I'M NOT** one of **THOSE HYPOCRITES**

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**ALLOW ME TO PAINT A PICTURE**

of what **EACH of us** - is **PRONE to Do**

**With** this **Life-Changing Teaching** from **Jesus**

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**I'm going** to **read** a **scripture**

& **let's – Put Ourselves** - in **this picture**

& **let's APPLY** these **Vs's** - to **OURSELVES**

in **regard** to **US** - **Being a Hypocrite**



**Luke 18:9–14 (PARAPHRASED – for this subject)**

***9 Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else:***

***10 “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector.***

***11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not (a HYPOCRITE) like other people . . .***

***. . .***

***13 “But the (one who knew he was a SINNER) stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’***

***14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”***

**Listen to me please**

**What we need to do**

**Is take that Big Ol’ Foam Football Finger**

**& we need to BACK UP**

**3 feet away from a mirror**

**& then We need - to point that Big Ol’ Foam Finger**

**Right Back - At THAT MIRROR**

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If we want to AVOID being the Pharisee  
In that picture

The first step is to REALIZE

that IN our SIN NATURE

We have a TENDENCY – to BE HYPOCRITES

& until we ACCEPT

that we can SO EASILY - BE A HYPOCRITE

We will continue

TO BE that Pharisee

Pointing the BIG Foam Football Finger

at all those OTHER people

& saying “Thank you God, that I AM NOT . . . like THEM”

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Please – Please

When I read these Next Vs's

DO NOT SEE all those “Other People”

See just ONE PERSON – In the MIRROR

**Mark 7:6-8 (NLT)**

**6 Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.**

**7 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’**

**8 For you ignore God’s law and substitute your own tradition.”**

**When you Read that LOOKING in the MIRROR – It STINGS!**

**Here is GOD’S DEFINITION of a Hypocrite**

**People who HONOR him with their LIPS**

**While their HEARTS are Far From Him**

Let’s **Be Honest** – to **some Degree** - & at **some Point in Time**  
**THAT HAS Defined** us **ALL**

***HONORING GOD with our LIPS***

***While our HEARTS are FAR From Him***

***Teaching – or Embracing - OUR OWN Man Made Ideas***

***AS - (or in place of) God’s Commands***

***Ignoring God’s law and substituting our own traditions***

at **SOME POINT** - to **SOME EXTENT**

That **DEFINES US ALL**

& **IF** we **REFUSE** to **take** a **HARD LOOK**  
**IN the MIRROR** - at **OURSELVES**

**Then** We will **ALWAYS** be **SHAKING**  
that **Big Foam Football Finger** - at **EVERYONE ELSE**

We've **GOT** to **Acknowledge** – Our OWN **TENDENCY**  
to **Be a HYPOCRITE**

& **then** - **CRUCIFY IT**  
**so** that we **DO NOT become** - **PHARISEES**

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& **THEN** – in **v.9** - **Jesus Summarizes** the **LESSON**  
**BY telling** us **HOW SKILLFUL** We **are** at **this**

### **Mark 7:9 (NLT)**

***9 Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition.***

**Our** Natural **TENDENCY**  
is to **Skillfully JUSTIFY** - **Our ACTIONS**

**So** that **WE CAN**  
**Skillfully SIDESTEP** – **God’s COMMANDS**

It **happens** in our **CHURCHES**  
& it **happens** in our **PERSONAL LIVES**

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& So – THAT is – THE LESSON  
NOW we see – THE EXAMPLE

**Mark 7:10-12 (NLT)**

*10 For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ (that’s serious)*

*11 But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’*

*12 In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents.*

This is something - the Religious Leaders came up with  
to AVOID Financially Supporting – their Parents

It allowed people to say

*I’ve Vowed to Give ALL my Money to God – SOME DAY  
So I can’t give it to you - TODAY*

& so – the Religious Leaders  
(*primarily* for their OWN GOOD)

Created a LOOPHOLE – that Allowed them  
to GET OUT of what God had called them to do

& they could STILL LOOK – Very Religious

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& guys – If you're NOT ANGRY with me yet  
Let me just share – 1 more truth with you

We are VERY SKILLFUL  
At Creating RELIGIOUS LOOPHOLES

That allow us to DO what We WANT  
& still LOOK Very Religious

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I know Jesus is specifically talking about  
RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS here

But if I don't apply this  
to OUR LIVES personally today

Aren't I just Handing you  
that BIG foam Football Finger

& giving you the OK to SHAKE IT  
at all those "Other People" ?

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We ALREADY have the TENDENCY  
To BE HYPOCRITES

I don't want to FEED that TENDENCY  
& make it EVEN WORSE

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& So - Jesus ends this Example

In - Mark 7:13 (NLT)

*13 And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”*

You Cancel the Word of God in order to hold on to

your own TRADITIONS

your own IDEAS

& your own LOOPHOLES

Guys – We’ve GOT to CRUCIFY our Tendency – to DO THIS

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So - We’ve seen THE LESSON (Don’t be a Hypocrite)

We’ve seen THE EXAMPLE (Religious Tradition)

NOW – we get – THE EXPLANATION

Mark 7:14 (NLT)

*14 Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “All of you listen,” he said, “and try to understand (love that).*

Jesus is like – *“This is too much, you all come around & listen up, I gotta clear this thing up - Right Now!”*

& so he says – in Mark 7:15 (NLT)

*15 It’s not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.”*

**Jesus is Referring BACK  
to the Ceremonial Handwashing**

**Because the Religious Tradition was;  
if you eat WITHOUT that ceremony**

**that food – remains UNCLEAN  
& so the food will make YOU UNCLEAN**

**& Jesus is like, “*You’re kidding me, right? Like that little ceremony is somehow gonna magically make you CLEAN*”?**

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**& then – it seems (to me) - Jesus just throws up his hands  
and HUFFS a little - & then**

**& we read in - Mark 7:17(a) (NLT)**

***17 Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd . . .***

**So - There’s a guy - Sittin’ on his Porch**

**Jesus says “*Hey Buddy, can I come into your house for one minute, I just need a break from all this madness*”**

**& the guy lets him in – along with his disciples**

**& then – Jesus gets “Additionally AMAZED”  
By His Own Disciples**



**Mark 7:17(b)-19(a) (NLT)**

**17 . . . and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used.**

**18 “Don’t you understand either?” he asked (are you kidding me).  
“Can’t you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you?**

**19 Food doesn’t go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer.” (good translation) . . .**

**& then – Mark inserts his SECOND COMMENTARY**

**Mark 7:19(b) (NLT)**

**19 . . . (By saying this, he declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God’s eyes.)**

**THAT is a MAJOR BLOW**

to the Jewish Religion - & to MANY Religions today

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**BUT – Diet is NOT the point here**

So let’s NOT make it THE POINT

**The POINT is – that you & I – have a TENDENCY**

(by our sin nature) – to Be HYPOCRITES

**& Jesus is USING – the Religious Traditions of EATING**

as a Powerful Example – of OUR HYPOCRISY

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**& so – Finally – in v.20**

**Jesus Begins his FINAL POINT**

& He **makes it clear**

**Exactly what - those who Truly want to Honor God  
MUST BE FOCUSED ON**

**Mark 7:20-22 (NLT)**

*20 And then he added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you.*

*21 For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder,*

*22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.*

**These are the sins – and a hundred more  
THAT RESIDE within our SIN NATURE**

**Mark 7:23 says (NLT)**

*23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”*

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<p><b><u>&amp; so – Here is</u> the <u>FINAL LESSON</u> <u>the Send-Off</u></b></p>
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We Must Separate – WHAT MAN LOOKS AT

From – WHAT GOD LOOKS AT

**1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)**

*7 . . . The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

**You & I MUST DECIDE** – Every Day

**WHO** do we want to Look Good FOR

**PEOPLE** are looking - at our OUTWARD DISPLAY

But **THE LORD** is looking - at our HEART

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When **King David** realized this very thing

**He Cried Out to God - in Psalm 51 (ESV)**

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

. . .

*16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

. . .

*17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

**In our Sin Nature**

**We** have a **Strong TENDENCY** - To **Be Hypocrites**

**But – If you are IN CHRIST Today**

that **Sin Nature no longer *Has To Be*** in **control**  
it **only has control** – ***if we give it control***

**The Power** of our **New Life in Christ**  
**Can KEEP** that **Sin Nature - *Crucified*** (Rendered Inoperative)

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& - **For THIS Area** – the **1<sup>st</sup> step** toward **TRANSFORMATION**  
Is to **FULLY EMBRACE**

That **ALL Outward Displays** – Are **MEANINGLESS to God**  
**IF** they **don't come from** a **PURE** & **RIGHT - HEART**

**God Wants** our **HEART** – ***Wholly & Completely*** -  
***Transparently & Honestly***

& **that STARTS** – with us **CONFESSING** to **God**  
that **WE Have** a **TENDENCY** – to **BE A HYPOCRITE**

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& **May we BE** - **Always Praying** with **King David**

***“Lord, Create in me a CLEAN HEART,  
& RENEW a Right Spirit within me”***

**Let's Pray**