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INTRODUCTION



How do we allow our faith to shape our hearts, not just our actions?

Mark 7:1-13



¹The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Him. ²They observed that some of His disciples were eating their bread with unclean —that is, unwashed—hands. ³(For the Pharisees, in fact all the Jews, will not eat unless they wash their hands ritually, keeping the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they have washed. And there are many other customs they have received and keep, like the washing of cups, jugs, copper utensils, and dining couches.) ⁵Then the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why don’t Your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders, instead of eating bread with ritually unclean hands?”

⁶ He answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

These people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷They worship Me in vain, teaching as doctrines the commands of men.

⁸ Disregarding the command of God, you keep the tradition of men.” ⁹He also said to them, “You completely invalidate God’s command in order to maintain your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said:

Honor your father and your mother; and Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.

¹¹But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother: Whatever benefit you might have received from me is Corban’ ” (that is, a gift committed to the temple), ¹²“you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³You revoke God’s word by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many other similar things.”

PROBLEM (Mark 7:1-13)



The Pharisees Only Valued External Righteousness

- The Pharisees Clung to a complex + evolving set of laws.
- Ironically, the pharisees' legalism actually sprang from a sinful heart.
- *Corban* – A chief example of their legalism's sinful hypocrisy.

Thoughts on Legalism...Richard Glover



It may seem almost incredible that men should leave the simple principles of righteousness for a region so barren and burdensome as that of external observances. But the secret is not so difficult to find.

- 1. External acts can be seen and felt by oneself and so can give complacency;*
- 2. They can be seen by others and thus can gain credit; and*
- 3. They are easier than walking with God. To approach Him needs the courage of purity and penitence; and to take His guidance requires perpetually the self-denial and consecration of faith.*

Mark 7:14-23



¹⁴Summoning the crowd again, He told them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵Nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. [¹⁶If anyone has ears to hear, he should listen!]”

¹⁷When He went into the house away from the crowd, the disciples asked Him about the parable. ¹⁸And He said to them, “Are you also as lacking in understanding? Don’t you realize that nothing going into a man from the outside can defile him? ¹⁹For it doesn’t go into his heart but into the stomach and is eliminated.” (As a result, He made all foods clean.) ²⁰Then He said, “What comes out of a person—that defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, ²²adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, promiscuity, stinginess, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within and defile a person.”

SOLUTION (Mark 7:14-23)



God looks upon the heart.

- Our own hearts are the factories of our sin.
- Legalism is a cheap + insufficient way of dealing with our sin problem.
- Jesus came to initiate a New Covenant.

“Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the LORD’s declaration. “I will put My teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them” —this is the LORD’s declaration. “For I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sin.”

JEREMIAH 31:33-34

EXAMINE + RENEW YOUR HEART



- The # of quiet times you have each week is no indication of the state of your heart.
- What comes out of you tells the true tale.
- Diagnostic Questions:
 - How do you treat your family?
 - Do you do things with integrity?
 - Have you obeyed God's latest command?
 - Do you esteem yourself above others?
 - Do you repent of your sin?

EXAMINE + RENEW YOUR HEART



If your heart is in a bad state, there's hope:

- Pray **Psalm 51** this week.
- Repent of legalism (cast aside practices that amount to nothing).
- Focus on your heart.

Mark 7:24-30



²⁴ He got up and departed from there to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but He could not escape notice.

²⁵ Instead, immediately after hearing about Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit came and fell at His feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to drive the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, “Allow the children to be satisfied first, because it isn’t right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she replied to Him, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

²⁹ Then He told her, “Because of this reply, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.” ³⁰ When she went back to her home, she found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.