

Study Guide for April 3, 2019

Mark 7: 30-37

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1 Nothing else in life should concern us more than our desire to love and be loved by God. If we do have some other concern stronger to us than our love for God, it is not so much that we are breaking God's rules, but that we are not really in relationship with God.

2 Idols are gods of our own creation, gods that have nothing to them that did not originate with us, gods that we feel we control.

3 The third commandment literally prohibits God's people from making "wrongful use" of the name of God.

4 In the context of the ancient world, the Sabbath was unique to Israel. On the one hand, this was an incomparable gift to the people of Israel. No other ancient people had the privilege of resting one day in seven.

5 For many people, good relationships with parents are one of the joys of life. Loving service to them is a delight.

6 Murder isn't the only form of violence, just the most extreme. Jesus said that even anger is a violation of the sixth commandment.

7 Therefore, any breaking of faith with the God of Israel is figuratively adultery, whether it involves illicit sex or not. But isn't every promise or agreement made by a Christian implicitly a covenant with God? Paul exhorts us, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17).

8 Stealing occurs in many forms besides robbing someone. Any time we acquire something of value from its rightful owner without consent, we are engaging in theft.

9 We should never say or do anything that misrepresents someone else.

10 Envy can arise anywhere in life, including at work where status, pay, and power are routine factors in our relationships with people we spend a lot of time with.

11 This journey took no less than eight months. It may well be that this long journey is the peace before the storm; a long communion with the disciples before the final tempest breaks.

12 There is no miracle which so beautifully shows Jesus' way of treating people.

13 Jesus looked up to heaven to show that it was from God that help was to come. Then he spoke the word and the man was healed.

14 When Jesus came, bringing healing to men's bodies and salvation to their souls, He had begun the work of creation all over again. In the beginning everything had been good; man's sin had spoiled it all; and now Jesus was bringing back the beauty of God to the world which man's sin had rendered ugly.

15 In this poor afflicted man Jesus saw one more sign of the vast crack and flaw which sin causes in everything which God has made.

16 Our Lord saw all the sorrow; He did not ignore it; He sighed for it; He wept for it; He prayed for it; but not for one moment did He despair for it; no, He worked to lighten it, leaving us thereby, as in all things, an example that we should follow His steps.

17 The sigh of Jesus binds us to recognize sin and sorrow, it should cause us to bend every effort of our lives towards the end that sin may cease and be forgiven, and sorrow flee away.

18 The sigh of Jesus drives us not to add to that sorrow but to add comfort where we can.

19 The sigh of Jesus drives us to be gentle and sympathetic and helpful to all who are afflicted, but also to strive by pureness and kindness, by high example and sound knowledge, to improve the conditions which will make life sweet and healthy, cheerful and genial, vigorous and pure. The world is full of sin.

20 The sigh of Jesus drives us to do the thing that is right; not to set examples which lead to sin; to lead men, both by our life and doctrine, to that Savior who died for sin, and who can alone forgive it, and cleanse us from its guilt and power.