

Mark 7:1-23 Sermon Outline

Passage in a sentence: Trust in Christ to fix your defiled heart and in His good commands seen in His good Word, instead of trusting in legalism or rule-following which only results in hypocrisy.

Here are three ways that we keep from being hypocrites:

- I. Avoid judging others based on man-made rules and precautions. (V.1-8)**
 - a. We become hypocrites when we impose on others against our standards instead of God's Word (V.3)
 - i. The disciples were not following the traditions of the elders. (V.3)
 - ii. The rules that the disciples were breaking were not prescribed in the Scriptures but arose out of a desire to protect people from breaking the rules in the Scriptures. (V.4)
 - iii. The actions of the disciples were a reflection on their rabbi.
 - iv. What started as good intentions became a legalistic expectation.**
 - b. We become hypocrites when we focus on our man-made rules instead of the heart. (V.6-8)
 - i. The problem Jesus has with the Pharisees is their actions do not seem to be lining up with their heart. (V.6)
 - ii. Outward actions can be indicators of what God has done for us, but our good actions do not guarantee a heart change.
 - iii. The Pharisees are trying to place the traditions of men on par with the commandments of God. (V.7-8)
 - iv. Guarding your life against sin is never a bad thing, judging someone else because they don't go to the length that you do is legalism.**
- II. Avoid replacing God's Word with lesser things. (V.9-13)**
 - a. The Pharisees were neglecting the commandments of God and instead following their man-made rules.
 - i. Jesus gives the example of the 5th commandment. (V.10)
 - ii. Corban- A promise made to God to give all money to the temple when you die but allows you to use as much of it as possible before you die. However, you were not allowed to share it with anyone, even your parents (V.11-13).
 - iii. The man-made rule of Corban kept the people from following the Word of God.
 - b. Our traditions and rules should never supersede God's Word.
 - c. We should obey the totality of God's Word, instead of ignoring the parts we don't like.
- III. Avoid thinking defilement happens only because of what we do, instead of happening because of who we are. (V.14-23)**
 - a. Defilement doesn't ultimately come from outside a person but from inside their heart. (V.18-21)

- b. Foods are now clean, not because the food has changed, but the way in which we are set apart has changed. (V.19)
 - i. Christ still expects holiness.
 - ii. Yet, Christ knows that holiness is something that will come by His sacrifice not even our obedience.
- c. Our heart and thoughts produce the evil inside of us. (V.21-23)
- d. We need to be fixed from this defilement, but rules and obedience don't fix the main problem.

Conclusion: **We need a new heart not a better set of rules.**