

Mark 7

Abide in Love

- **Jesus the Unrelenting Servant**
 1. Rejected in Nazareth
 2. 12 given instructions and power sent out
 3. J the B Death
 4. Jesus feeds 5000

Mark 6:53 When [Jesus and His disciples] crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. 54 When they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 55 and ran about that whole country and began to carry here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and **as many as touched it were being cured.**

I. Sin is Within

1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem.

- Came together:
 1. Worship
 2. Hear the Word of God
 3. Fellowship with other believers
 4. **Pickers/Fixers:** Gift of controversy

Pick apart what God is doing/ Fix what they believe is broken

Titus 3:9 ... avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 **Reject a divisive** man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- Reject a divisive person after 2 warnings:

Proverbs 6:12 A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth;¹³ He winks with his yes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers;¹⁴ Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.¹⁶ These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies, And **one who sows discord among brethren.**

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head...

- Pharisees/Scribes: God "hates one who sows discord among brethren"

2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is,

with unwashed hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a **special way**, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

- Sin sniffers? Fault finders? Hair-Splitters. Came from Jerusalem for this purpose
- Priest Law [Ex. 30:19. 40:12]
- Found fault after looking for fault

To wash your hands in a **special way**, you started by taking at least enough of this water to fill one and one-half egg shells. Then, you poured the water over your hands, starting at the fingers and running down towards your wrist. Then you cleansed each palm by rubbing the fist of the other hand into it. Then you poured water over your hands again, this time from the wrist towards the fingers [Guzic]

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" ["Your disciples" actually accusation against Jesus]

- **Tradition:** Why are you not doing things the way always been done?
- Rejecting New Wine Mark 2: Missing the boat...
 1. Miracles
 2. Deliverance
 3. Healings
 4. Salvation
 5. Restoration of lives
 6. Dead raised
 7. Blind See
 8. Lame walk

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men —the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

Isaiah 29:13 "... these people [Religious Leaders] draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men..."

- Throw away commandments of God/Hold tight to commandments of men!
- Teach traditions of men as God's truth? Tradition above God's Word?

"Rabbi Eleazer said, 'He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no

share in the world to come' ... The Mishna, a collection of Jewish traditions in the Talmud, records, 'It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict Scripture itself.'" (Wiersbe)

For freedom that Christ set us Free!

1 Timothy 4:1 ...the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- **Hypocrite:** Lit. an actor, someone who wears a mask
- **Make Believers:** Pharisees of Jesus day, Cults and Religions of our day
- **Commonality:** Hearts are not given over to God but pride:

Colossians 2:8 [Read] Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ...16 ...let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind...

1. Deceivers: Wanting to cheat you out of real relationship w/God
 2. Delight in False Humility
 3. Not true worshipers of God
 4. Intrude [stand upon] things they have not seen
 5. Vainly Puffed-up
 6. Led by fleshly [sinful] mind not the Spirit of God
- Followers held captive by fear of not keeping man-made rules! Want to box in Jesus

Isaiah prophesied correctly about YOU hypocrites...pitchers and cups?

9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

- **Tradition of Corban:** Specially devoted to God
- Religious leader tell followers give us your money; tell parents its devoted to God
- Causing followers to sin: **Power and Control**

Luke 17:1 "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom

they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

- Tradition of Corban over Word of God "Honor your Father and Mother"

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand:

- Calls the multitude together with those He just called out

15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- Sin is within

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. 18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

- What we say/do reveals an already sinful heart; sin is a heart problem:
- We are not sinners because we sin...we sin because we are sinners [don't walk...]
- 13 Evils of the human heart

"The source from which these rivers of pollution proceed is the natural heart of man. Sin is not a splash of mud upon man's exterior, it is a filth generated within himself." (Spurgeon)

You can't be saved by religion...only Jesus

You can't wash off sin with water...only Blood

SUMMARY: Sin is Within: Fault finding Make-believing Hypocrites believed keeping man made rules secures a place in Heaven. Jesus give hard truth...Sin is within...Change is from the inside out!

Sin follows monks to Monasteries, Nuns into Convents, Priests to mountaintops, Pharisees to Synagogues, Cults to places of meeting; sin follows us to church to find mercy in Jesus

II. Pure Faith

24 From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He

entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. 25 For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

- Tyre and Sidon: Gentile cities 50 miles north
- Could not be hidden: Gentile woman "My daughter is possessed...help me!"
- **Kept asking:**

Luke 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you [lit. Ask and *keep* asking]

27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

- Children first: Jews first

Test of Offense...What will her response be?

28 And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

- **A+** Test of Offense. A humble contrite heart:

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 ...thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

- **Contrite:** Heb. Crushed, Broken, Shattered
- Diametrically opposite Pharisees heart

29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

- Jesus love these words of faith and humility..."The demon is gone; daughter is back"

30 And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

- **SUMMARY: Pure Faith:** Mixture of **Belief, Humility, and Boldness**

III. Jesus Heals a Deaf-Mute

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. 32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. [Hello to man formerly known as Legion?]

Mark 2:3 Then "they" came to Him, bringing a paralytic...

- "They" are back. Intercessors. Faith that Jesus can help!
 1. Prayer warriors: Prayer Chain Judy
 2. Evangelists: Mike
 3. Visitations
 4. Bring friends to church
- They brought one who was deaf/speech impediment/ begged Jesus to heal

"Mark's use of an extremely rare word to describe the man's speech defect is almost certainly an allusion to Isaiah 35:5 which celebrates God as the one who comes in order to unstop the ears of the deaf and to provide song for the man of inarticulate speech." (Lane)

33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.

- Took him aside as multitude watched
- Spits/touches mans tongue with spit; Not always one method

34 Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

- Looks up, Sighs, says to the deaf man "Ephphatha," that is, "**Be opened.**"

"The 'sigh' was an inward groan, our Lord's compassionate response to the pain and sorrow sin has brought into the world. It was also a prayer to the Father on behalf of the handicapped man. [Groaning of the Spirit in Romans 8] "(Wiersbe)

35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

- Jesus the unrelenting Servant of the Father
- Law to the Proud and Grace to the Humble