

# SURPRISED BY A SAVIOR

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF MARK

Mark 7:1-2 *"The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed."*

Mark 7:5 *"So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, 'Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?'"*

1. The religious leaders were surprised Jesus' disciples were not living by their made-up rules.
2. The tradition of the elders (Mishnah) involved tens of thousands of laws passed down orally that were aimed to clean people up so that they would not sin.
  - It is a human tendency to identify actions that are associated with sin and lower them to the level of sin.
  - It is also a human tendency to identify boundaries that are associated with overcoming sin and raise them to the level of law.

In other words, what was meant to be a fence can become a wall.

Mark 7:8 *"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."*

3. Jesus rebuked elevating human boundaries above God's commands.

Mark 7:13 *"Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."*

4. Jesus identified the internal heart as the source of defilement.

Mark 7:14-15 *Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."*

Surprise #1:

Jesus surprisingly simplifies holiness instead of complicating it.

Surprise #2:

Jesus surprisingly internalizes holiness instead of externalizing it.