



mark

THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

Intro: Wash Your Hands Before Dinner!

**Is it possible to follow the rules
and not LOVE your parents as
you should?**

Intro: Wash Your Hands Before Dinner!

**A clean HEART matters more
than dirty HANDS.**

A faint, circular background illustration depicting a stormy sea. In the foreground, a boat is shown navigating through large, dark waves. In the distance, a lighthouse with a cross on top is visible on a rocky shore. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and a bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, is partially obscured by a cloud in the upper right. The entire scene is rendered in a light, sketchy style.

Mark 7:1-8

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

A conflict over hand washing...
but is this REALLY what the
conflict is about?

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

A symptom of a larger problem...
the Pharisees elevate their own
tradition above the Word of God.
And Jesus is about to extend
God's Grace to the Gentiles
(which the OT has been saying
all along).

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

An official delegation from the Sanhedrin... sent to investigate the activity of Jesus and His Disciples.

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

It actually makes good sense to wash your hands before eating... but what started out as "common sense" has become a "religious matter" to the Pharisees.

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

What does God's Law actually say about ceremonial hand washing? **PRIESTS** must wash hands before serving in the Tabernacle. And the **PUBLIC** must wash hands after touching any bodily fluids. That's all!

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

Where did the Pharisees get this idea from? The TRADITION of the Elders (the ORAL TRADITION).

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

Jesus pushes back on the Pharisees because they have elevated the Oral Tradition to **EQUAL STANDING** with God's Law!

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)

The Pharisees love their traditions more than they love God... and this is the core of their problem!

I. The Trouble with Tradition (1-8)



OR



OR



A faint, circular background illustration depicting a stormy sea. The scene shows a boat with a mast and cross-arms, likely a fishing vessel, navigating through turbulent, swirling waves. In the upper right corner of the circle, a large, bright sun or moon is visible, partially obscured by a few wispy clouds. The overall style is that of a light-colored, possibly embossed or faintly drawn, illustration on a textured paper background.

Mark 7:9-13

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

**The Law comes from God... but
Jesus calls the Oral Tradition "your
OWN traditions."**

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

To make His point, Jesus cites the 5th Commandment... "Honor your father and mother."

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

Corban = vow... Describes a concept similar to deferred giving.

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

The Pharisees (and others like them) do not VOW their possessions to the Temple because they want to give to the Temple... they do it in order to keep everything for themselves until they no longer need it!

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

If a person made a Corban-vow, the Pharisees insisted that they keep it... even if their own parents were in need! In this way, they elevated their own tradition above the Word of God!

II. When Tradition Trumps God's Law (9-13)

**"And you do MANY things like this."
Corban was not an anomaly... it was
standard operating procedure!**



Mark 7:14-23

III. What Truly Defiles (14-23)

Jesus finally answers the question from verse 5... but He directs His answer to the whole crowd, not just the Pharisees.

III. What Truly Defiles (14-23)

Oral Tradition teaches that external things pollute... and right behavior makes you right with God!

Jesus teaches that internal things pollute... and a right HEART makes you right with God (and produces right behavior)

III. What Truly Defiles (14-23)

RELIGION = Go to church, give your money, be good people, earn God's favor. STILL SINFUL in our hearts!

RELATIONSHIP = Love God, Trust in Jesus, changed HEART... changed LIVES!

III. What Truly Defiles (14-23)

External things (like food) never touch the heart... they pass through the body and leave the heart unchanged.

But the heart affects everything in our lives... therefore, we must prioritize the HEART issue!

Conclusion: The Trajectory of your heart

Jesus tells us that we must address the **INTERNAL** things rather than the external things.

Conclusion: The Trajectory of your heart

Religion deals with external things and behavior modification. But religion leaves the heart unchanged.

Conclusion: The Trajectory of your heart

A Relationship with Jesus
changes our HEART... the Holy
Spirit enters our lives... and THEN
our behavior begins to change
also.

Conclusion: The Trajectory of your heart

**We don't modify our behavior IN
ORDER to be saved... the Holy
Spirit changes our behavior
BECAUSE we are saved!**



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