



Why Do I Need Jesus?

October 15, 2023 | Mark 7:1-23

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

***Before discussing these questions, read through Mark 7:1-23 as a group.*

1. Ice-breaker: Share a time when you were covered in dirt (or maybe some other disgusting substance spilled on you). How did it feel to get clean?
2. Why is it important to talk about sin and understand its seriousness? As part of this discussion, read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.
3. In your own words, summarize the issue Jesus is addressing in Mark 7:1-6.
4. The Pharisees are focused on external issues. Make a short list of how Jesus focuses attention on the heart — what is going on inside of us — in Mark 7:6-16.
5. Read Mark 7:21-23 out loud. According to Jesus, where do sinful actions start? (See also Jeremiah 17:9 and James 1:13-15.)
6. If our hearts are wicked and sinful as we've seen, what hope is there for being spiritually "clean" and whole? (See Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 1:9.)
7. Do you believe Jesus's work on the cross can make you spiritually clean, like you've seen? Why or why not? (How do the verses in the previous question address this?)
8. What other questions or comments do you have about this passage?
9. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
10. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?
11. **Challenge – Memorize Mark 7:21-23:** 21 For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come — sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person."