

Life Group Questions - Mark 7: The Battle for Inside Out

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. *Main Idea of the Passage:* Legalism, Liberty, Life
2. *How the main idea is developed:* Jesus confronts and condemns the religious leaders for their legalism which cuts them and others off from the grace of God, and then Jesus turns to the most unlikely people to give them grace as they seek him by true faith
3. *Melodic Line:* Repent and Believe in the Good News that Jesus is the Suffering Servant King, the Glorious Savior.

Outline

1. Legalism (vv. 1-23)
 - A. Legalism described (vv. 1-13)
 - B. Legalism explained (vv. 14-23)
 - C. Legalism set straight
2. Liberty (vv. 24-37)
 - A. Syro-Phoenician woman (vv. 24-30)
 - B. The deaf man (vv. 31-37)
3. Life

Gospel Centrality

1. Legalism leads to spiritual bondage and death; Jesus' grace leads to spiritual liberty and life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Warming Up

1. So far how has this series on Mark shaped or re-shaped your answer to the question, *who is this man?*

Letting the Text Shape our Framework

1. Legalism described (vv. 1-13)
 - A. Where do the Pharisees go wrong? How are they measuring *defilement*?
 - B. How is hypocrisy the root of legalism?
 - C. Ultimately the Pharisees were not loving their parents. How are our own traditions causing us to have a lack of love in areas of our lives?
2. Legalism explained (vv. 14-23)
 - A. How does Jesus use this food illustration to contrast externalism and interior spirituality?
 - B. Jesus declares religious leaders unclean because of their legalism. Why?
 - C. How are we ultimately rejecting Jesus and his grace through legalism?
3. Legalism set straight
 - A. Consider these points:

- i. Legalism begins with replacing the Word of God with our human made traditions
 - ii. Legalism feeds off of hypocrisy and hypocrisy feeds off of desires for control, safety, and posturing.
 - iii. The Bible is our hope for grace, not another means of legalism.
 - B. Why must we identify our traditions/frameworks (i.e. politics, social issues, theology, etc) and how do you surrender those to Scripture?
3. Liberty (vv. 24-37)
 - A. Syro-Phoenician woman (vv. 24-30)
 - i. How does this defiled Canaanite woman receive liberty from Jesus?
 - ii. What does this say about her heart?
 - B. The deaf man (vv. 31-37)
 - i. With the example of another “defiled” Gentile person what is the point Jesus is trying to make in this chapter?
 - ii. When we are willing how does Jesus meet the deepest longing of our heart?

Traveling Through the Cross

1. If we lay down our traditions at the foot of the cross we will receive grace, which leads to liberty and life.

Applying This Passage to our Lives

1. The centrality of the Bible is fundamental to a grace-driven Christianity.
 - A. How can you (individually and a group) begin to grow in reading the Bible in context in order that grace may abound on every page?
2. The grace-driven Christian is concerned with the heart as the starting place for all things.
 - A. Am I doing things to get human approval, to avoid submission, to avoid pain, to seek control OR am I seeking to love God with all my heart?
3. The Gospel of grace takes outside-in out people and makes them properly inside-out.
 - A. Where are areas of your life that are outside-in? Do you see this as a battle Take these things to the Throne of Grace and ask the Father to change your heart.