



Summary of Message:

Jesus is ALWAYS most concerned with the posture of our heart. Not the outward appearances we put out there... but our hearts. Are they authentic? Are they passionately pursuing God? Or is it all just religion... tradition... and about the exterior for us?

Questions for your Family Devotions or Grace Groups:

1. Review [Mark 6:53-7:23](#). What was something the Lord used to speak to **you personally** in this message?
2. What were some traditions that your family did that you remember with fondness? Were there any that you remember NOT liking?
3. Jesus was healing, feeding, teaching, delivering... and yet all some of the religious folks were concerned about was nitpicking and complaining about what He and His disciples were NOT doing? Have you ever seen this kind of behavior amongst Christians? What causes a person to miss the great things God IS doing, while focusing on the unimportant things? How does [Galatians 5:15](#) speak to this?
4. What is Jesus really saying in [Mark 7:6-8](#)? What does it look like today for a person to “worship God in vain” or “honor God with their lips, but their heart be far from Him”? What is the remedy for this?
5. Pastor Michael shared that he believes the test for any church practice – from baptism to Communion, from tithing to missions is threefold:
 - *Is it exhibited or exemplified in the life of Christ?*
 - *Is it extended into the Book of Acts?*
 - *Is it expounded by Paul in the epistles?*What does this mean? Can you think of any practices that a church does that does NOT fit these criteria?
6. Read [Matthew 6:21](#). Have you seen this verse to be true in your life?