

THE GOSPEL OF **MARK**® *servant* **KING**

CHAPTER 7 **INNER PURITY**

Jesus was becoming well-known throughout Israel. News of His miracles and healings reached as far as Jerusalem. The religious leaders had no doubt heard of what Jesus's disciples had done on their recent missionary journey, and they began to feel threatened. Opposition to Jesus was spreading so much that these leaders in Jerusalem sent a delegation 70 to 100 miles to question Jesus and His ministry. Jesus took the opportunity to teach them about the importance of inner purity versus outward religiosity.

MEMORY VERSE

"You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of man." **Mark 7:8 ESV**

Read Mark 7. Prayerfully ask Jesus what He wants you to take to heart today. Write it down.

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT INNER PURITY

1. Who came to see Jesus? Where did they come from? What fault did they find with Jesus's disciples (vv.1-2)? Describe their continuing attitude and motive in searching out Jesus. (Review Mark 3:6 and see Matt. 12:14.)
2. Mark provides background information in verses 3 and 4. Was this a tradition or a commandment?

The Scribes, who were expounders of the law, had by this time become “hair splitters” and were more concerned with the letter of the law than with the spirit of the law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, were those who defended the Jewish way of life against all foreign influences and were also strict legalists. *J. Vernon McGee*

3. These two groups of religious men came to Jesus with what specific accusation? What were these men really concerned about keeping (v.5)?

Jesus was not against all tradition, but He was against those who made tradition as important, if not more important than God’s Word. Good traditions shine a spotlight on God’s Word, move us to obedient service, and help our hearts to sing.

DID YOU KNOW?
During the time of Israel’s captivity and in the period between the Testaments after the Israelites had returned to their land there was a development of new groups and parties not mentioned in the Old Testament. There were the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Scribes and Herodians.
J. Vernon McGee

4. What did Jesus call these men? How does Jesus respond to their accusation? What Old Testament Prophet does He quote (vv.6-7)?
5. What does it mean to be a hypocrite? Why did Jesus say these religious people were being hypocrites? What motivated their worship (vv.8-9)?

The word for hypocrite referred to an actor who hid behind a mask. Thus the word meant “pretender”. Jesus’ quotation from Isaiah 29:13 clearly defined what a hypocrite was and focused on God’s condemnation of those who taught the commandments of men as if they were God’s instruction.

PERSONAL

How do you as a Christian act like these Pharisees? Can you share an example of something the Lord reminded you of through this study?

6. Jesus gives an example of the hypocrisy practiced by these religious Leaders; explain how they justified their neglect of their mother and fathers. What effect did their actions have on the Word of God (vv.10-13)?

7. What clear command of God's law were they ignoring? What is the promise God gave when He wrote this command? See Exodus 20:12.

8. Jesus called the multitude to Himself; what did He want everyone to hear and try to understand (vv.14-16)?

DID YOU KNOW?

Corban Literally means an offering. Anyone who made a Corban vow was required to dedicate money to God's Temple. For some that was money that otherwise would have gone to support their parents. Corban became a religiously and convenient way to neglect parents circumventing the adult child's responsibility to them.

The disciples needed to understand that outward religion was not what God wanted. Instead, God was looking at their inward heart. No amount of outward displays of manmade rules would God accept as righteousness in His eyes.

9. What did Jesus want His disciples to know really defiles a man? Did the disciples understand (vv.17-20)? Also see Jeremiah 17:9-10.

10. List the sins Jesus listed that come from the heart of man and thus defile him (vv.21-23). Do you struggle with any one in particular? How are you reaching out to the Holy Spirit to help you with this struggle?

PERSONAL

Many people go through the motions of worshiping Jesus but their hearts are far from Him. In order to truly worship, our hearts must be totally involved and surrendered to Jesus, not rules and regulations. See Romans 10:9-10. Anything else is just religion. What is the state of your heart today?

A GENTILE SHOWS HER FAITH

Jesus leaves Galilee and travels about 30 miles to Tyre and Sidon, a Gentile region. This is the only recorded time when our Lord left Palestine. He was practicing what He was teaching His disciples: There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles for all sinners need the Savior. *Warren Wiersbe*

11. What were Jesus's intentions in going to Tyre and Sidon? Was He successful (v.24)?

12. Who came to Jesus? What was her need? How did she come to Him (v.25)? What does Matthew 15:22 say she said to Jesus?

13. How does Mark describe this woman and her background and persistence on behalf of her daughter (v.26)?

14. Matthew records some additional information about this woman and her pleading conversation with Jesus. What was she pleading for? What title did she give Jesus? (See Matthew 15:22)

15. How did Jesus first respond to this woman? What input did the disciples have in this encounter? (See Matthew 15:23)

16. When Jesus answered her, what did He say (Matthew 15:24)? How does Matthew record her final plea? What does she now call Jesus (Matthew 15:25)?

17. What did Jesus refer to when He said, “Let the children be filled first,” and “It is not good to throw the children’s bread to dogs”? Who were the children and who were the dogs? (See Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24; John 4:22). How did this woman show her faith (Mark 7:27-28)?

“It was then that Jesus spoke about feeding the children (Israel) first and not throwing their food to the “little pet puppies.” Jesus was not calling the Gentiles “dirty scavenger dogs” as did many of the proud Jews; He was giving her hope, and she took hold of it.” *Warren Wiersbe*

18. How did Jesus honor this woman’s faith? When the woman got to her home, what did she find (vv.29-30)? (Also see Matt. 15:28)

PERSONAL

What did you learn from this woman’s persistence? How are you encouraged that Jesus commended her faith? What have you brought to Jesus today in persistent prayer?

Great faith is faith that takes God at His word and will not let go until God meets that need. Great faith can lay hold of even the slightest encouragement and turn it into a fulfilled promise. “Lord, increase our faith.” *Warren Wiersbe*

JESUS HEALS A DEAF MUTE

Jesus continues and is on the move! He is now continuing in Gentile territory through the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.

19. What three private and personal touches did Jesus use to heal this man (v.33)?

PERSONAL

How do you need a personal touch from Jesus today? The deaf mute could not hear Jesus, but he could see Him and feel Him. Be encouraged: You can go directly to Jesus today.

20. As Jesus brought healing to this man, where did He look? What did He do? And what did He say (v.34)?

The sigh was an inward groan, our Lord's compassionate response to the pain and suffering that sin has brought into our world. It is also a prayer to the Father on behalf of the handicapped man. The same word is used in connection to prayer in Romans 8:23 and the noun in 8:26. *Warren Wiersbe*

21. What immediately happened (v.35)? Discuss how it would be to have the first voice this man heard be the voice of our Lord? Can you just imagine what his first words would be?

22. What did Jesus command to all who witnessed this miracle? In their astonishment, what did they go and do? What words did they proclaim (vv.36-37)?

DWELL ON THIS

Jesus is the same today as He was in the times Mark wrote about. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. "He has done all things well." He will continue to do all things well for us today. Is this the truth you proclaim today?

