

## Wash Your Heart

Mark 7:1-23

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### I. The accusation. Mark 7:1-5

Jesus meets the people's needs, but the religious leaders were more concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ and rules than the needs of the people.

- Not only did these religious leaders place a higher value on their traditions than people's needs; they also placed a higher value on their traditions than the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Jesus taught that a person who obeys the law externally can still \_\_\_\_\_ the law in his heart, and that external "defilement" has little connection with the condition of the inner person."* (Warren Wiersbe)

### II. Jesus rebukes the hypocrites. Mark 7:6-13

The real issue was not the dirty hands of the Disciples; the real issue was the dirty \_\_\_\_\_ of the religious leaders.

- Once we are in Christ, we are a new creation. When we behave like the old man we were before we were in Christ, we are being a play actor, which is the very definition of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Without a personal relationship with the Lord, our rituals are good for nothing; the traditions of man should never be given higher \_\_\_\_\_ than the authority of God's Word.

### III. How defilement happens. Mark 7:14-16

What comes out of our mouth reveals if we have a dirty \_\_\_\_\_.

- We are not defiled by things from \_\_\_\_\_ of the body; thoughts of murder, evil intentions, and what comes from the heart defiles a person, not eating with dirty hands. **Acts 10:14-15**

### IV. Jesus explains the parable further. Mark 7:17-23

It is easier to keep \_\_\_\_\_ and traditions than to change our rebellious hearts and enter into a loving relationship with God.

- Jesus said the sinful heart produces adultery. We must be careful, because everyone is capable of causing long-term pain in exchange for short-term \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus said that He came to this earth to rescue us from our unclean hearts! Jesus also said that He would make us \_\_\_\_\_ by dying in our place and rising from the grave.

- Religion always promotes \_\_\_\_\_ and turns people into hypocrites; but relationship with God through Jesus gives life.

## Small Group Discussion

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

1. Read **Mark 7:1-5**. How far of a distance did the religious leaders go to criticize Jesus and His followers? Discuss the possible justifications they may have had for going all that distance. **Matthew 14:34, Matthew 15:1**
2. The Jewish oral traditions were written and studied and became known as the Mishna. One of these traditions dealt with the washing of hands before and during meals. *What did the scribes and Pharisees say that Jesus' disciples transgressed (Mark 7:5)?* **Colossians 2:8, 1 Peter 1:18**
3. Read **Mark 7:6-7** and discuss the three ways the Pharisees were having hypocritical worship before God. **Psalms 29:2, Isaiah 29:13, John 4:22-24, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 13:15**
4. Read **Mark 7:9-13**. Jesus responds to the scribes and Pharisees accusing them of using Corban, selfishly making them guilty of transgressing God's Law. *How were the scribes and Pharisees guilty of this transgression?* **Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:1-3**
5. Jesus said the things that come out of a man is what defiles the person. Discuss how our words tell the truth about our heart condition. **Matthew 12:33-37, Acts 10:14-15, Galatians 2:11-13, Ephesians 4:29-32, James 3:8-11**
6. *Do you think it's possible to really know God? Why or why not? What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?* **John 15:21, John 17:3, Acts 15:8-10, Romans 11:6, Galatians 3:11**
7. *How would someone passionately pursue knowing Christ? How can you pursue Him this week?*