

Mark 7

Mark 7.1-5

V1 – Who attacked Jesus next? Pharisees & scribes

-From where? Jerusalem

-Why had they come all the way from Jerusalem to question Jesus? To find fault with him

V2 – What specifically did they object to? The disciples of Jesus were eating without washing their hands

V3 – How do we know that Mark was writing to Gentile readers? Notice how he explains things to his readers here

-What was the background for this passage? The Jewish leaders would very carefully wash their hands before eating (not for hygiene, but for ceremony)

V4 – What activity makes them "unclean"? Being in the marketplace

-Where had they gotten these ceremonies? From the Jewish leaders

RE: Study the Mishnah, if you go to a Christian college (many volumes of rules from the rabbis)

Example: At a Catholic service today, the priest makes a big deal out of wiping the chalice for the grape juice and the plate for the bread – the same thing

V5 – What kind of attitude did the Pharisees have? Very arrogant, full of pride

-What was their specific attack? The disciples of Jesus ate with impure hands

Mark 7.6-13

V6 – What did Jesus call the Pharisees? Hypocrites (from "face mask" in Greek plays)

-Whom did Jesus quote concerning the Pharisees? *Isaiah 29.13* (Septuagint)

-What did Isaiah say about the Jews? They honored God with their lips, but their hearts were far away from God

V7 - What did Isaiah say about the Jewish people? They made their own laws into the laws of God

-A very important verse for the religious world today to consider

-Does it matter what kind of worship people give to God? Yes – there is such a thing as vain worship

V8 – What had the Jews neglected? The commandment of God

-What had they replaced it with? Their own traditions

-We see this today with so many religious groups: praying to Mary/counting beads/baptizing babies

V9 – Notice "nicely" – i.e., it doesn't bother them at all

V10 – Jesus proceeds to give them a good example of just what he was talking about here:

-What had Moses said about parents? We are to honor them, not to speak evil of them

-What was the penalty under the Old Law for dishonoring one's parents? Death (stoning)

-This was #5 of the 10 commandments

V 11 – But they had found a loophole in the Law of Moses:

-**How had the Pharisees gotten around the Law of Moses on this point?** Dedicated everything they owned to God/therefore, it was not theirs to give away – isn't that neat?

-Notice how Mark explained the word Corban for his Roman readers

V 12 – **What was the result of this false doctrine?** Their parents were not taken care of

V 13 – **What had they done to the word of God?** Invalidated it

-**Were there other examples of this?** Yes, many

Mark 7.14-23

V 14 – **What did Jesus ask of the audience?** That they listen carefully

V 15 – Back to the question of the washing of hands before eating

-**What defiles a person?** What goes into the man (to influence a man)

V 16 – Another warning to listen to this very carefully

V 17 – The apostles asked him questions about the parable (not really a story, but a saying)

V 18 – **How did the apostles understand the subject?** Not very well

V 19 – It is not what we eat that makes a person unclean, but what comes out of his heart

-Notice Mark's conclusion at the end of this verse: All food is edible/no unclean food anymore

V 20 – What comes out of a person defiles him

V 21 – **What defiles a person?** Evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery

V 22 – More items that defile a person

V 23 – All these things defile a person

Mark 7.24-30

V 24 – **Where did Jesus go next?** North to the region of Tyre (Gentile area)

V 25 – **Who approached him in Tyre?** A woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit

-**What was her attitude toward Jesus?** Fell at his feet/honored him/loved her daughter

V 26 – **Was it significant that she was a Gentile?** Yes – Jesus and the apostles were supposed to go the Jews first (See *Romans 1.16*)

V 27 – Seems to be an insult at first, but there were two Greek words for dog: 1. The mean, vicious

wild dog, 2. The pet of the house – Jesus used the word for the pet
-So even when Gentiles would ask Jesus for something, he would grant it

V 28 – **How did she respond to Jesus?** Even the dogs get the scraps

-A very gentle, sweet verse

V 29 – **What did Jesus think about her answer?** He liked it/the daughter was healed

V 30 – She went home and found the daughter well

Mark 7.31-37

V 31 – **Where did Jesus go next?** Back to Galilee

-**What area did he go through to get there?** Decapolis

-**What had happened at Decapolis?** Demons into swine/Jesus was asked to leave

-We see that their attitude had changed a lot since then

-probably because of the testimony of the man whom Jesus healed there

V 32 – **Whom did they bring to Jesus to be healed?** Deaf, mute (spoke with difficulty because of the deafness)

-**What did he do 1st?** Got him away from the crowd

-**Next?** Put fingers in his ears/put his saliva on his fingers

-Remember that the man could not hear what Jesus was saying (reasons for these signs)

V 34 – Used an Aramaic word here – Notice that Mark translated it

V 35 – The man was healed (ears opened, speech problem removed)

V 36 – **What did Jesus say to the people?** Not to tell anyone

V 37 – A great verse about Jesus: he does all things well

-**Was there anything that Jesus did not do well?** That distinguishes him from all other people who have ever lived

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