

Mark 7:1-23 – Exposing Hypocrites假冒伪善者

TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, Handfuls, Rienecker, Poole, FourFoldGosp, Geneva, QT, Trapp, Clarke, Calvin, JFB, Gill? Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

A Roman Catholic will likely be angrier with you if you violate Lent四旬斋 than if you violate the Sabbath安息日.

A Roman Catholic bishop will likely be angrier with a priest if he married than if he committed abuse of children. We know this based on the serious punishment for the marrying and the lesser punishment given for abuse.

A Pentecostal灵恩派信徒 will likely be angrier with you if you drink alcohol than if you misuse God's name.

An evangelical福音派的 Christian will likely be angrier with you if you refused to say “Merry Christmas” than if you take the 10 laws 十诫 out of schools.

A Reformed 改革宗的 Christian will likely be angrier with you if you don't quickly read the Bible at each dinner than if you carefully studied the Bible later!

All of the first cases are examples of hypocrisy假冒伪善 – where tradition is love more than truth. But hypocrisy in the church is not new. And one of the ways you see this is when the Jewish犹太教的 leaders, the Pharisees法利赛人 in particular, substituted God's law with their made up traditions. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Jesus excoriated被严厉指责 by the Pharisees

Jesus exposed the Pharisees' hypocrisy.

Jesus explained the Pharisees' hypocrisy.

Our goals are: **That you will work to make sure that your hearts are clean and humble谦卑的 before God and fit for service, rather than to become preoccupied with fake worship.**

Jesus Excoriated by the Pharisees

1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes文士 came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. 2 Now when they saw some of His disciples **eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands**, they found fault. 3 For the **Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition** of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the **washing** of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "**Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders**, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

1. After the Feast节期 in Jerusalem (that many skipped to listen to Jesus), the Pharisee looked for a way to attack Jesus.

Surely the priests in Jerusalem lost much money and gifts that the worshippers would have taken to Jerusalem if they had gone to celebrate instead of going to listen to Jesus.

2. The Pharisees got an opening to attack Jesus when his disciples did not wash their hands before they ate, contrary to Jewish tradition.

Washing hands is good policy. You teach your children to do this. But **the Pharisees were not demanding handwashing for cleanliness.** They were demanding handwashing for tradition. The problem was that this **washing (tradition) was not prescribed被制定 by God (it was not a law).**

As a side note, this type of washing was developed in history because the Jews wanted to put **a hedge around God's law. A “hedge” was an extra level of protection used for fear of**

breaking the law. For example: The Jews **refused to use the name of God** (the hedge) because they thought that this would prevent them from misusing God's name.

3. So how was this tradition of washing hands, which the Pharisees made into law, observed被遵守?

If a Jew came from the market, he would have to wash his hands in case he touched a Gentile外邦人 or any ceremonially 礼仪上unclean thing. He or someone would pour water from his wrist down.

The Pharisees had other traditions like washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches (not "tables" as OKJV).

And while there was nothing wrong with these traditions, treating these traditions as laws was wrong.

The word for washing is "baptizo" or baptizing施洗. We can conclude that this was not a literal washing as no one would normally immerse浸 his bed in water—especially in a country where water was scarce. Baptism is done by sprinkling or pouring.

4. So the Jews excoriated Jesus' disciples for not keeping their traditions that they had made into laws.

With all the things in the world that were happening (lusts for money in a materialistic society – Jerusalem was a center of commerce, with the worship of the idols 偶像of Rome, etc.), the Pharisees were concerned about breaking a meaningless tradition. They ignored the laws of Moses and exalted抬高 their own traditions. Jesus warned against this kind of danger earlier in his ministry事工. The Pharisees did not have true righteousness义.

Matthew 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness **exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

5. Lessons:

a. Learn to draw the distinction between what is a tradition, even a nice tradition, and what is God's law you must obey! If you are not sure, ask.

b. Don't impose施加 traditions, even if they are nice traditions, on others. Don't criticize those who reject your traditions, but graciously correct those who reject God's law.

Jesus Exposed the Pharisees' Hypocrisy

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me.** 7 And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines教义 the commandments of men.**' 8 "For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

1. The Lord Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in 2 ways:

a. The self-righteous自以为义, hypocritical, Pharisee did not have the right heart to serve God, as Isaiah taught. God always required that a sincere heart accompanied his worship.

b. The self-righteous Pharisees pretended that the traditions were equal to or above the original laws of God.

This is what happens when the heart is not right with God. An example of this: The Roman Catholic Church has put church tradition above the authority of the Word of God.

10 "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses

father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban" — (that is, a gift to God), 12 "then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 **"making the word of God of no effect** through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

2. Jesus then gave an illustration (as good teachers often do) of how the Pharisees substituted God's law with traditions.

Consider the illustration: Moses, in the law, commanded children to honor their parents upon pain of death, but the Pharisees developed the tradition that said **it was better to give to the temple than to their parents**. (The "gift" to God was better than the gift to their parents.) So children were taught that it was better to allow their parents to starve挨饿 or to beg as long as they (the children) were giving to the priests and the temple. But love for your heavenly Father never requires hate for your earthly father.

3. In substituting tradition for law, the Pharisees nullified使无效废止 God's Word, denying the purpose of the Word of God.

The Pharisees' hearts were filthy污秽的...filled with hypocrisy.

4. Lessons:

a. A lesson on principle: Let God's Word determine what is a law; don't make up laws and impose them on yourself or others. This hurts people and this dishonors God.

b. This principle of letting God's Word determine what is a law is particularly applicable to worship. You have to examine God's Word to make sure that the church is worshipping consistently with the directions of God's Word. **"Giving your best" is not the standard for determining how to worship.** You have to be able to say: "Thus says the Lord."

c. Learn to care for your parents if they are needy. Don't ignore your starving parents to support missionary work. If you truly love God you will care for your parents...not ignore them.

d. Reject bad traditions – traditions that are sinful. Don't "dedicate" your babies for instance; baptize them!

Jesus Explained the Pharisees' Hypocrisy

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: 15 "There is **nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile污秽玷污 him**; but the things **which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man**. 16 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!" 17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable比喻. 18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 **"because it does not enter his heart** but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

1. Jesus taught his disciples that obeying God's laws from the heart was right, but trusting traditions – hedges around the law- were hurtful.

How so?

Traditions used in serving and worshipping God were only exterior外在的. So if a man eats food with ceremonially unwashed hands there was no lasting impact. Man's body gets rid of things it doesn't want and life goes on. He is neither good nor bad if he eats with unwashed hands. His worship is not better or worse. Even in the Old Testament when men became unclean for touching certain ceremonially unclean things like dead bodies, that was simply to teach the need for spiritually purity纯洁. The main point was that they were not to live unclean lives.

Obedience to the law – serving and worshipping God, has to come from the heart. So what comes out from the soul reflects what was in the heart – good or bad.

So external traditions could never be a substitute for God's laws. To try to use traditions this was harmful, sinful!

21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries奸淫, fornications苟合, murders, 22 "thefts, covetousness贪婪, wickedness, deceit, lewdness淫荡, an evil eye, blasphemy谤讟, pride, foolishness. 23 "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

2. Then Jesus gave examples of what was coming from the Jewish leaders' hearts– the hypocrites' hearts- showing their lack of desire to truly serve and worship him from the heart: Evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness.

Covetousness is in the plural复数, so it refers to all kinds of improper desires.

3. Lessons:

a. Just as Jesus rebuked those who were his enemies and taught those who were his children, so should you. Being politically correct政治正确 might make people love you in Canada, but if you refuse to confront sin in people's lives you are wrong. Yes, it is nice to have many friends and have them say nice things about you, but what kind of a friend are you if you let them die and go to hell, thinking that everything is good with their souls? Or what kind of a friend would you be in you left your Christian friends in a state of shallow Christianity? So lovingly rebuke and encourage with love.

b. Traditions, without the sincere heart for worshipping God, is a sure recipe for judgment.

God hates fakers作假者!

c. You must regularly examine your heart to make sure you love God's law and desire to worship him as he commands.

Conclusion:

The self-righteous Jews excoriated Jesus because his disciples were not following their made-up tradition of washing their hands before they ate so they could be ceremonially clean. Jesus **exposed the hypocrisy of their accusations责难, for they were only concerned about the non-essential traditions but cared little for the faithful obedience to the law.** Their hearts were corrupt, but they wanted to look good. **Jesus then explained to his children the how the Pharisees were hypocrites** and thereby encouraging them to keep the law and worship him from their hearts!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Examine your life regularly to make sure that traditions don't take the place of faithful obedience to the law.

2. Even if you obey God's law, you must search out your heart to make sure that you do things with the right motive动机 – to please your Savior.

3. If you want to have the right motive for what you do, you need to regularly reflect on what Christ has done for you. Look to the cross and see the suffering of the Savior. You will "roll back the curtains of memory now and then; and see where he brought you from and where you could have been." Only this will humble you!

Finally, while you should obey the Lord with a clean heart, you don't have a clean heart. Your heart needs to be spiritually washed in the blood of Jesus, the one who died in the place of sinners. Why not ask God to wash you clean with the blood of Jesus as you are not able to please him with even your good traditions?