

RELIGION BUT NO RELATIONSHIP PART 2

Sunday, March 19, 2023 -- GOSPEL OF MARK series -- Msg 28 -- Enrique J. Rojas

MARK 7:1-13

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Now when the Pharisees gathered to Him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, **2** they saw that some of His disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. **3** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, **4** and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) **5** And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" **6** And **He 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** in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

9 And He said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! **10** For **Moses said**, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' **11** But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)— **12** then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, **13** thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

REVIEW: FOR GOD, THE ISSUE IS ALWAYS THE HEART.

A) This is seen very prominently throughout the Old Testament:

- True worship can only come from a heart that sincerely loves God and obeys God.
Deuteronomy 10:12; 11:13; 13:13; 26:16; 30:2, 6, 10; Joshua 22:5; 1 Samuel 7:3; 12:20; 12:24

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 (The Great Shema or instruction to God's people.)

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

B) This is seen very prominently throughout the teachings of Jesus.

MATTHEW 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount hammers the issue of the heart)

1) THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WERE SEEKING TO CONFRONT JESUS: (v1)

A) The scribes traveled a long distance to see Jesus:

- The distance between Jerusalem and Capernaum is approximately 120 miles.
- The center of Jewish religion was the temple in Jerusalem. These were the top scholars.

B) Jesus had already interacted with Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem.

MARK 3:22-30 (Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit)

- Jesus showed great compassion to those oppressed by illness and demons.
- Jesus strongly opposed religious men that led sheep astray.

2) LEGALIST ELEVATE TRADITION OVER SCRIPTURE:

A) The disciples ate with hands that were ceremonially unclean. (v2)

B) Notice that the offense was over tradition and not the Torah. (v3)

- The ceremonial washing found in Leviticus 22:6-7 was prescribed only to priests before offering sacrifices. They were not intended for everyday use.
- They would wash after being in the markets due to risk of interacting with Gentiles or ritually unclean Jews. (v4)
- They were so concerned that they even included pots and cups in their ceremonial washing.

C) They confused God's standards with human standards. (v5)

- They viewed the oral tradition equal to or more important than the Scriptures.
- In the 3rd century AD, their oral laws were compiled together to form the Mishnah.

3) JESUS ELEVATES SCRIPTURE OVER TRADITION:

ISAIAH 29:13

¹³ And the Lord said:

*"Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,*

A) The Lord does not delight in religious acts. His desire is for our affection. (v6)

JEREMIAH 29:13

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

B) Their worship is in vain, it does not earn them salvation. (v7)

ISAIAH 64:6a

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

C) Legalist are very skilled at finding ways to disobey God. (v9-13)

- Jesus points out their disobedience to the scripture. (v10)
- They would find ways to go around God's explicit commands. (**Corban**: "dedicated to God") (v11)

4) APPLICATION/REFLECTIONS:

A) In what ways are we likely to fall into legalism, traditions or work-based faith?

B) Your religion cannot appease the wrath of God, only the blood of Christ.

DO YOU KNOW CHRIST? DO YOU OBEY CHRIST?