

Lesson Notes: Mark 7

Introductory Questions

1. Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 in Mark 7:6,7. In what ways do you think this rings true about our culture, or groups within our culture?
2. Pretend we could x-ray your heart right now. If you could offer one or two things in your heart right now to Jesus for His cleansing touch, what would those two things be? Scripture says He can make you clean from the inside out.
3. Tim Keller points out that we need inside-out cleansing, not outside-in caricatures of cleansing. Give one instance in your lifetime when you tried outside-in cleansing.
4. Why did Jesus honor the woman's statement that "even the dogs eat the children's crumbs?"

We still don't get it! We try to fix ourselves with...

...Traditions and Truth

"You have let go of the commands of God and you are holding on to the traditions of men." 7:8

"You set aside the commands of God to observe your own traditions." 7:9

What are the commands of God? (The Great 2)

...Unclean and clean

The heart is the measure, not the skin or hands. "Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him." 7:15a "What comes out of a man makes him unclean." 7:20 Not poop from the body or grime from the ground; dung and grime from the heart and soul!

Unclean is defined by what is within and comes out as sin; it results in behavioral harm toward our neighbors and ourselves, which is vs. the Great 2.

Luke 11:37-54: Jesus proclaims woes to the frauds, who have pursued outside-in cleansing.

The woman from Tyre

Jews first, then Greeks. Harsh? What does Jesus mean?

Pharisees/religious leaders Jewish IN crowd Twisted faith Didn't believe in Jesus

Woman from Tyre Greek OUT crowd True faith Did believe in Jesus

Ephphatha!

"With a deep sigh"

He has done everything well.

Personal and Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Now that you've heard the lesson and listened to each other, define clean and unclean.
2. What do you think about Jesus' style of calling the religious leaders out? He called them names, quoted Scriptures describing how far they are from God, and confronted them in front of a crowd.
3. Jesus said the "hypocrites" had "let go of the commands of God" and were "holding on to the traditions of men" (v.8). Can you think of a time when you've done that or seen it done?
4. Why do you think the Jews came first, then the Greeks? Have someone look up Acts 13:46 and apply it to this passage.
5. In the same humble-yet-assertive manner of the woman from Tyre, for what do you need to ask Jesus?
6. Why do you think Jesus did so many touchy-feel-y things to heal the deaf and dumb man? In what ways do you need Jesus to spiritually and lovingly place His hand for you and impart His divine power?
7. Go through some of the questions in your homework together. What did others put for their answers? Discuss those questions that really interest your group.