

Mark 7.1-30

Truly Clean!

GOOD that ICF has Sunday School > Dangerous Sermon for KIDS to Hear
Would get Biblical Support for NOT WASHING their HANDS!

Seen Jesus' CAMPAIGN of PREACHING and HEALING Cause a BIG STIR
Opposition from Jewish RELIGIOUS LEADERS INTENSIFIED

v. 1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from
Jerusalem gathered around Jesus

COME from JERUSALEM – HQ – to SPY on Jesus > Sought to UNNERVE Him
Mark sees JERUSALEM as FOCAL POINT of OPPOSITION to Jesus
FOLLOWED Jesus CONSTANTLY LOOKING for Something to CRITICIZE

The *teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem* said, "He is possessed by
Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." Mark 3:22

- Dining

When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners"
and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "*Why does he eat with tax collectors
and 'sinners'?*" Mark 2:16

- Denial

"How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are *fasting*, but
yours are not?" Mark 2.18

- Days

The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they *doing what is unlawful on the
Sabbath?*" Mark 2.24

NOW > DEFILEMENT of DIRTY HANDS...

Text NOT Connected in TIME or THEME with Previous Chapter / Stands ALONE

1. Conflict

2. Control

3. Center

4. Church

1. Conflict: Hands

v. 2 saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed.

CAUGHT some of Disciples 'DIRTY HANDED'!: RAG-TAG Group of Followers

WASHING: NOT for HYGIENE or OBEDIENCE to LAW > **TRADITION!**

Jews WASH when Coming Home from MARKET > Defiled by Unclean Gentiles

The shadow of a Gentile falling across a dish or plate made it unclean. Donald English

100's of yrs BEFORE JESUS > LAW of God thru MOSES commanded...

PRIESTS had to WASH HANDS and FEET before Entering TABERNACLE

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing...Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it... when they approach the altar to minister by presenting an offering made to the LORD by fire, they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die.

Exodus 30:17-20

WASHING before WORSHIP?...Now There's a GOOD IDEA....*here at ICF?...*!

GOOD INTENTION: Pharisees THEN NOBLE DEFENDERS of Israel's Law

Sought to REMIND Nation > God's HOLY, ELECT People – SEPARATED

By 2nd C BC Many DEVOUT Jews – Not Just Priests – Began this Practice

Did RITUAL WASHING before their MORNING PRAYERS

“Blessed by Thou O Lord, King of the universe, who sanctified us by thy laws and commanded us to wash the hands.” 2nd Century BC Jewish Benediction for Laymen

DEGENERATED > Source of Spiritual PRIDE and RELIGIOUS ISOLATION
Then IDEA Expanded – (LEGALISM has Voracious Appetite) to ALL MEALS
Washed – HANDS – CUPS – PITCHERS – even the KETTLE!

METICULOUS Detailed Instruction about HOW to Wash Hands PROPERLY
HOW MUCH Water Needed & WHAT PARTS of Hands, Fingers, Arms get WET
SOUNDS like Nit-Picking between BAPTIST and PRESBY on Waters of Baptism

To the Pharisees God was a distant Law-maker who hemmed in the lives of people.
To Jesus, God was the Father of those who trusted him...God’s laws express a
Father’s wisdom Sinclair Ferguson

Pharisees BURDENED and JOYLESS because of LEGALISM > Fruit: DOUBT

2. Control: Authority

DIRTY HANDS --- just TIP of Iceberg of DEEPER ISSUE...

a. Tradition

v. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, *holding to the tradition of the elders.*)

He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come. Rabbi Eleazer

It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict Scripture itself. The Mishna, a collection of Jewish traditions in the Talmud

Testimony of Saul of Tarsus: “I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was *extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*” Galatians 1.14

We all HAVE Traditions > LIFE Needs them for ORDER and EFFICIENCY

QUESTION > Do they SERVE Scripture or SUBSTITUTE for It?

NOT Just an ANCIENT DANGER > PRESENT Problem in Church TODAY

Recent Conference ask: “How many read book from Left Behind series?” MOST
 “How many have read the book of Revelation in New Testament?” FEW

Remember Stories in a SERMON > FORGET SCRIPTURE trying to EXPLAIN

b. Trade Down

- Rules made by Men

v. 7 “their teachings are but rules taught by men”

In areas where the Law was silent the tradition was vocal, drawing the conclusions felt to be implicit in the mandates of the written code. The result was a vast legal complex, oral in form but definite in formulation, which was entrusted to the scribes, the recognized interpreters of the Law, and was regarded as binding upon all Israel.

William Lane

MANY People LIKE Life MORE SIMPLE, Less Thinking, CLEAR Boundaries

Some Love AUTHORITARIAN Leaders > DICTATE how to THINK and LIVE

- Reject God's Word

v. 9 "setting aside the commands of God"

AT STAKE: View of GOD HIMSELF and WAY of SALVATION – Critical Issue
Following JESUS > Demanded DIFFERENT View of God, Selves, Salvation

- Robbed God's Word of its Power

v. 13 "you nullify the word of God by your tradition"

Perhaps Pharisee's THOUGHT they were PROTECTING Law > Really Weakened

PHARISEES	JESUS
Man's Traditions	God's Truth
Outward Forms	Inward Faith
Legalism	Liberty
Many Rules applied by Legal Scholars	General Principles applied by Holy Spirit
Outward Rituals	Inward Holiness
Neglect, Replace the Word	Exalt and Explain the Word

c. Themselves

MOST SERIOUS Issue for Pharisees: Jesus DISregard of Their AUTHORITY
And THEIR ROLE as CHIEF Interpreters of LAW of God for Society & Nation

v. 5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

YOU are RESPONSIBLE for their Bad Behavior = Jesus is CARELESS LEADER
As He Questioned this ORAL LAW he brought DOUBT on THEM & their RULE

TRUE Power in hands of INTERPRETERS and IMPLEMENTERS of Law
 Make Law in ASTANA to FORBID Corruption / Cop on Street NEVER READS It

Jesus said: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat...they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for men to see" Matthew 23.1-5

Replaced GOD'S LOVE with SELF Love / God's LAW with Man's TRADITION

d. Test Case

Pharisees CLAIM their Authority reached all the way back to MOSES
 Jesus sees HOW CAREFULLY they Follow COMMANDS Moses Gave > 5th

vs. 10,11 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God),

Jesus refers to FORMULA of Dedication used by the Jews then

Corban – Devoting something from normal use to sacred use. NOBLE THING

Person Makes VOW > Then All FUNDS are DEVOTED to GOD

Property REMAINS in YOUR HANDS > You BENEFIT and ENJOY Life

THEN Parents NEED HELP > Priest's say NO! this is CORBAN – Not for Them

v. 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.

Becomes a LEGAL TRICK > ESCAPE your Duty to BOTH God and to Parents

v. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.

Jesus categorically rejects the practice of using one biblical commandment to negate another...The fault lay not in the commandments but in an interpretive tradition which failed to see Scripture in its wholeness. William Lane

Just 1 of MANY Examples of PHARISEES Self-Righteousness / ABUSE of Law

3. Center: Hearts

CALLED Crowd to TEACH New IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

v. 14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this..."

CROWDS would be INTERESTED: Much of Life run by RULES of Pharisees

// KZ Gov't Announces INCREASE in COST of HEATING Homes > Affects All
Authoritarian Control of Religious Leaders > Oppressive Atmosphere over all Life

a. Determinative

Pharise: MOTHER of DEFILEMENT, EXTERNAL: Sin thru Physical CONTACT

Assumed THEY were PURE, SINLESS > by their Meticulous SEPARATION

May APPEAR Devout > HEARTS are FAR from God

v. 15 Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

Jesus DISTINGUISHED between the STOMACH and the HEART

FOOD NEVER enters a Man's HEART

SEMITIC World > HEART is CENTER of Human Personality, Directs all of Life
Above all else, guard your *heart*, for it is the *wellspring* of life. Proverbs 4.23

v. 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body."

FOOD is DIGESTED > But SIN DEFILES / Food DEPARTS but SIN DESTROYS

v. 15 Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

Washing concerns HANDS > MORE Important Issue WORSHIP of the HEART

Jesus goes on OFFENSIVE > They're NOT Protecting LAW – POLLUTING It!

v. 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their *hearts are far from me.*

Hypocrite – Actor's MASK / LIPS said one thing > HEARTS said Another

b. Desperate

v. 20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'

And the SURGE that GUSHES OUT is NOT VERY PRETTY

The evil in our desires usually does not lie in what we want; but that we want it too much...every one of us, from his mother's womb, is an expert at crafting idols...

The human heart is a factory of idols

John Calvin

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17.9 KJV

v. 21-23 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'

What most affects your life with God is not what you put inside, but what is inside already.
 Yours Truly

SIN is NOT SOCIETAL – Cannot BLAME BAD PARENTS, Schools, Friends
 NOT GENETIC – People are Not BORN Gay, Drunk

NOT Superficial – ONLY OUTWARD, Cannot be WASHED AWAY

Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because he shows us both God and our own wretchedness.

Blaise Pascal

c. Dull

v. 17,18 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'?"

Disciples: CLOSER Relationship to Jesus than Crowds but NO BETTER INSIGHT

SURPRISE of Disciples > THEY TOO has FALSE View of Sin and Righteousness
 Like CROWDS – were FOOLED by SUPERFICIAL PIETY of Pharisees

They were completely amazed...their hearts were hardened. Mark 6:51-52

"Are you so dull?" Jesus asked. Mark 7:18

Jesus must have FELT VERY ALONE > Opposed by Religious Leaders

Doubted by His Family - Followed by Crowd for Wrong Reasons

Leading Disciples who Partially Understood, SOMETIMES!

Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? Mark 8:17-18

Interesting > Mark describes HOUSE is Place of Rest and Revelation

HOUSE > Not WRONG to Have One and REST in One > Place to MEET Jesus

v. 17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him...

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately... Mark 9:28

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them... Mark 9:33

When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this... Mark 10:10

IMPORTANCE of SMALL GROUPS: We need House of Encouragement, Insight, Exhortation, Enlightenment: *"What did BLAIR mean last Sunday??"*

4. Church: All Peoples

a. Fractured World

Mark writes on TWO Levels: **1.** Historical Event of Jesus confrontation with Jews

2. Relevance to Jews & Gentiles in Early Church to which he wrote from Rome

Same INCIDENT Recorded in MATTHEW (to Jews) Without these 2 Verses

Mark WRITING for GENTILE Readers in ROME > Did Not KNOW Jewish Laws

vs. 3,4 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

v. 11 Corban (that is, a gift devoted to God)

v. 19 (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

Mark INTERPRETS Jesus for the CHURCH of his Day

Great RELEVANCE to ROMAN Church and entire GENTILE World

v. 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

Jesus probably QUOTING POPULAR PROVERB > Audio-video Tape to Analyze

What was TONE of Voice and EXPRESSION on His Face?

Word = Pet Puppies / NOT Dirty Scavengers // House Dog! – Not Wild Stray!

TESTING the SINCERITY of Woman? MANY 'Miracle Healers' in Region

CHALLENGE of Early Church > BE ONE Church > True Unity of Jew & Gentile

Jewish APOSTLES Raised on LAWS of SEPARATION from Leviticus 11

Peter still kept KOSHER Household TEN YEARS after PENTECOST

Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." Acts 10.14

Church in ROME > Struggled with MEAT Sacrificed to TEMPLE IDOLS

Paul EXHORTS to Apply PRINCIPLES of Jesus: Focus on HEART, Not Stomach

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness,
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17

b. Woman of Faith

v. 24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre.

1 time MARK Records Jesus LEAVING PALESTINE: Farthest NORTH J. traveled

PRACTICE PRINCIPLES he just Taught > NO DIFFERENCE between People
If UNCLEAN Foods like PIGS and SLUGS are NOW Clean > HOPE for US ALL!

v. 25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet.

35 Miracles in Gospels > 4 Involved WOMEN

v. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

ANGUISH and CONCERN of Mother of Sick Child is UNDERSTANDABLE

MANY HINDRANCES and CHALLENGES to her Faith

WOMAN – GENTILE – DAUGHTER – DEMONS - even Jesus seems Against her

In the ancient Jewish world this was a combination of need beneath the dignity of any true rabbi.

Sinclair Ferguson

v. 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

FIRST: Woman heard HOPE Someday Coming / May BE DOG, but is IN HOUSE!

v. 28 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Jesus sees more than MAGICAL Hope in Her > TRUE FAITH in a GENTILE!

SURPRISING what does NOT Necessarily INDUCE Faith:

Hearing the Parables - Seeing Miracles - Witnessing Exorcisms

Traveling with Jesus - Knowing the Law - Being a Jewish Man

Great faith is faith that takes God at His Word and will not let go until God meets the need.

Warren Wiersbe

v. 29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

CONTRAST of Woman's Simple, Active Faith : STUBBORN Refusal of Pharisees

She saw ABSOLUTE NEED of Jesus > Jewish Leaders had NO USE for HIM

v. 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

c. Washed and Free!

True Ceremonial PURITY is EXTERNAL OBEDIENCE to Law by FAITH

God wants our LOVE from the HEART to lead to OBEDIENCE

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. *Love* the LORD your God with all your *heart* and with all your soul and with all your strength. These *commandments* that I give you today are to be upon your *hearts*. Deuteronomy 6.4-6

GOOD NEWS of GOSPEL > God gives HEART TRANSPLANTS in JESUS

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36:26,27

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Jesus taught that God graciously saves sinners. But the Pharisees argued, if that is so, men will live as they please; they will flout the law of God and still be able to enjoy the salvation of God. If only they had been able to see their own hearts clearly they might have seen the reverse is always the case: it is the man who has been accepted by God's grace who devotes the rest of his life to pleasing him. The man who has no assurance that he is accepted by God will always live a lie, pretending to be better than he is – either before God or men. Sinclair Ferguson

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139.23,24

Mark 7

7:1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and 2 saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. 3(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

9 And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." 14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. 18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") 20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" 24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. 25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." 28 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.