

BE DILIGENT: What Really Matters? - FOCAL PASSAGE: Mark 7:1-13

THE INTERROGATION

Mark 7:1-5 ...*The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, 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 defiled hands?"*

1. THE INTERROGATORS: THE ENFORCERS OF TRADITION

- The Pharisees were more concerned about enforcing the traditions of the elders than they were of releasing people from the burden of the law.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** ...*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

2. THE CHARGE AGAINST TRADITION

- Why are your disciples not ceremonially washing their hands according to the traditions of our fathers?
- This washing tradition had become unfruitful in two ways: First was the **ISOLATION** of others from worship of the one true God. Secondly was **PRIDE**.

3. THE CLASH OF MODERN TRADITIONS

- Social status.
- Commandments into traditions
- Salvation is apart from baptism: **Romans 10:13**...*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*
- Key verses used: **Acts 2:37-38** ...*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*
- Baptism' meaning: **Romans 6:1-4** ...*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*
- "Worship Wars"

THE INDICTMENT

Mark 7:6-9 ...*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 merely human rules.'⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."⁹ And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"*

- Notice the first thing Jesus did was to quote from the Prophet Isaiah (**Isaiah 29:13**) and then He brought in the Law of Moses (**Exodus 20:12; 21:17; Leviticus 20:9**)
- Jesus called them "hypocrites," which means play actors.

- **Matthew 23:13-15** ...*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.*
¹⁵*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.*
- False professions: **Matthew 7:20-23** ...*Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.* ²¹ *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*
²² *Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’* ²³ *Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*

THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Mark 7:10-13 ...*For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’* ¹¹ *But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—* ¹² *then you no longer let them do anything for their 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.”*

- Once Jesus had exposed their hypocrisy, He then turned to the Law of Moses and indicted them for breaking the fifth commandment.
- These men claimed to love God, but they had no love for their parents.
- Allow me to ask you to consider just two issues of our day.

1. ABORTION

- **Exodus 20:13** ...*Thou shalt not kill.*

2. SAME SEX ATTRACTION

- Jesus has not changed: **Hebrews 13:8** ...*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
- **Genesis 1:27** ...*So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them male and female He created them;*
- **I Corinthians 14:33a** ...*For God is not the author of confusion*

LIVE IT OUT

- What patterns or traditions are you holding onto today that is pulling you away from Jesus and His love?
- What steps do you need to take to align your life with the Word of God and God's will for your life?