

March 12, 2017

The Gospel of Mark "Following Jesus" Mark 7:1-30 Pastor Kirk Gambrell.

Vol. 7 Num. 11

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In this week's passage, we see a contrast between the legalistic Pharisees and a Greek woman who is left on the outside when approaching the Messiah, who is Jewish. The Pharisees are more concerned about the laws and traditions than anything else. They cannot understand why Jesus' disciples do not follow all of the laws and traditions. Jesus first tells them the difference by explaining that defilement has more to do with a condition of the heart (what comes out of a person) than the physical actions following laws and tradition (what goes into a person). The Syrophenician woman serves as a contrast when Jesus cast the demon out of her daughter because of her faith. This week we will talk about how the condition of our heart is more important than following the rules.

**Pay attention to the
condition of your heart**



Read Mark 7:1-30 (NET)

7 Now the Pharisees and some of the experts in the law who came from Jerusalem gathered around him. ² And they saw that some of Jesus' disciples ate their bread with unclean hands, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they perform a ritual washing, holding fast to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. They hold fast to many other traditions: the washing of cups, pots, kettles, and dining couches.) ⁵ The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with unwashed hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

*'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.*

⁷ *They worship me in vain,
teaching as doctrine the commandments
of men.'*

⁸ Having no regard for the command of God, you hold fast to human tradition." ⁹ He also said to them, "You neatly reject the commandment of God in order to set up your tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever insults his father or mother must be put to death.' ¹¹ But you say that if anyone tells his father or mother, 'Whatever help you would have received from me is corban' (that is, a gift for God), ¹² then you no longer permit him to 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 this."

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing outside of a person that can defile him by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ He said to them, "Are you so foolish? Don't you understand that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him? ¹⁹ For it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and then goes out into the sewer." (This means all foods are clean.) ²⁰ He said, "What comes out of a person defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the human heart, come evil ideas, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, evil, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, and folly. ²³ All these evils come from within and defile a person."

²⁴ After Jesus left there, he went to the region of Tyre. When he went into a house, he did not want anyone to know, but he was not able to escape notice. ²⁵ Instead, a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him and came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, of Syrophenician origin. She asked him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and to throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ She answered, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "Because you said this, you may go. The demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ She went home and found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. What is the main concern of the Pharisees when they approach Jesus at the beginning of this passage?

9. What is the difference between what Jesus says defiles a person and what the Pharisees believe defiles a person?

10. How does the quote from Isaiah in verses 6 and 7 reflect the attitude of the Pharisees?

11. Why does Jesus regard Israel as the children and the Greek woman as a dog?

12. Why does Jesus seem to change his mind and grant the Greek woman's request to free her daughter from the unclean spirit?

☪ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
 Why does this MATTER to me?

13. How do we tell the difference between faithfully following Jesus and being legalistic?

14. What are some examples of the modern church being so legalistic that they lose sight of loving people?

15. How do we balance the commands that Jesus gives us with making sure that our actions reflect our heart?

16. Are there traditions that we hold to closely that are not found in Scripture?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES