

think if they could just but touch Him they could be healed. **“56 And wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and entreating Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured.”** MacArthur comments, *“Though many who experienced His miracles would never come to embrace Him in genuine saving faith, true believers, like the disciples in the boat, move beyond mere amazement to a place of sincere worship.”* **End quote.** The evidence of Jesus divine nature was so abundant, it really is incredible to think that the nation will eventually reject Him. Led by the **blind religious leaders** that they have, they will soon cry for His crucifixion, but not before **Jesus exposes** their **hypocrisy** for all to see.

**Mark 7:1-13** – 1 And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, 2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; 4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" 6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 7 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' 8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." 9 He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death'; 11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

Notice again, even though Jesus is in the **northern region** of **Gennesaret**, the **scribes** from **Jerusalem** had gathered around Jesus, but now they have with them some **Pharisees**. The Pharisees were the recognized **experts** both in the Old Testament **Law** and the Rabbinic **Traditions**. No doubt they saw Jesus widespread popularity as a threat against their man centered legalistic form of religion, and this was causing confrontations with Jesus and the religious leaders. See here they have

again traveled all the way from Jerusalem. **“1 And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, 2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; 4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)”** Mark here includes the important background about the tradition of the **“Pharisees and all the Jews,”** no doubt to place emphasis on the heart of the confrontation. Here they want to interrogate Jesus obviously as a way to **discredit Him** and His disciples. **“5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?"** Now their goal seems to obviously be accusation, and the **accusation** focuses on what they call the **“tradition of the elders.”** This is a stinging question about something that obviously made them angry about this Rabbi Jesus, who in their eyes was so brazen as to not keep the **“tradition of the elders.”** This as usual leads them right into the place of rebuke from Jesus, which is now what they receive as He exposes the **hypocrisy** of their **religion**. Jesus doesn’t answer their question, instead He exposes their hearts. **“6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 7 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”** Jesus here points them to the true authority of God, His Word through the prophet **Isaiah** (Isa 29:13). The Pharisees focus on their **man-made rules** and Jesus points them to the **Word of God**. But more, Jesus gives them a stinging rebuke calling them **“hypocrites”** and explaining that their **hearts** aren’t focused on God, but rather their worship is meaningless vanity as they hold up the **teachings of men** on par with the doctrines of God. **“8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”** And here is the matter plainly stated, they are **“neglecting the commandment of God”** instead elevating the **“tradition of men.”** In this sharp correction of the Pharisees, let us **examine our own worship** that we not elevate teachings of men above the commandment of God, but rather **obey and serve God only**. Jesus will now show them by example exactly how they are doing this. **“9 He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death'; 11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' 12 you no longer**

permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.” In love Jesus clearly shows them specific ways that they are neglecting the commandments of God and holding to the tradition of men. Jesus here quotes from the 10 Commandments in Ex 20:12, and also Ex 21:17 to set forth the **commandment** of **God** which they had **neglected**. Their **tradition** of **Corban** allowed them to hold back support that they should be given to the elderly parents as they had pronounced it “**Corban,**” or devoted to God. **Neglecting to honor and respect** their parents by giving their financial resources to them in their old age, Jesus was rebuking them for this **false worship** of God. They **honor God** with their **lips** pronouncing their funds as “**devoted to God,**” while neglecting to **obey God** by **caring** for the **parents**. Thus, Jesus says they were “**invalidating the word of God by your tradition,**” a serious reproof indeed. This was indeed **hypocrisy** and Jesus pointed to the words of **Isaiah** to show them that what God desired was **hearts** of **devoted worship** and **obedience** to God’s **commandments**, rather than an outward show of **traditions** taught by **men**. Many times, in the Old Testament (Deut 6:5-8, 10:12, 11:13, 13:13, 26:16, Josh 22:5), God called the people to **love Him** with **sincere hearts** of worship through **obedience**, much like Jesus taught as well.

**John 14:21** - "He who **has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me;** and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." NASB

Let us learn here to **examine** our **own hearts** and devotion to God to be sure we do not **neglect** God’s commandments by elevating some man-made teaching instead. Let us be sure that our devotion to God comes from a **heart** that **sincerely** desires to **obey God** and please Him **for His glory** above any other motive we may have.

**Mark 7:14-23** - 14 And after He called the multitude to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. 16 ["If any man has ears to hear, let him hear."] 17 And when leaving the multitude, He had entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. 18 And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; 19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated? "(Thus He declared all foods clean.) 20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit,

sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Here Jesus will again as a **loving shepherd** instruct the people how not to be led astray from the **legalistic system** of works-righteousness **religion** that pervaded their land. The **tradition** of the Pharisees was concerned that people not defile themselves by eating with dirty hands, cups and pots, but Jesus will now discuss where true defilement comes from and how to think about spiritual purity. **"14 And after He called the multitude to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. 16 ["If any man has ears to hear, let him hear."]."** Jesus here speaks of the **true nature** of **defilement**, that it exists in the **heart** of people and comes from **within**, not outside people and is consumed by them. Even as He had spoken of honoring God with lips while having a **corrupt heart** of **hypocrisy**, here again He points to **heart** and instructs them that defilement comes from within. Now privately, He will give the disciples a more complete explanation of true defilement. **"17 And when leaving the multitude, He had entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. 18 And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; 19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated? "(Thus He declared all foods clean.)"** He specifically explains that the reason things entering a man from outside can't defile him is because it **"does not go into his heart."** Often in Scripture the **"heart"** refers to **inner person**, the seat of one's mental, emotional, and **spiritual being**. It encompasses one's attitudes, affections, priorities, ambitions, and desires. It is the inner spiritual **thought life** with its **intentions** and **motives** and it is this heart where Jesus heart tells us that **sincere** and true **worship happens**, and also where **true defilement** springs from. This of course was a theme in Jesus teaching, even as it was in the Old Testament.

**1 Samuel 16:7** - 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; **for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."** NASB

**Matthew 15:18-20** - 18 "But **the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.** 19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 "These are the things which defile the man; **but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."** NASB