

# **If Jesus Facebooked: is telling others why man-made tradition can get you into trouble.**

**July 19, 2009**

**Mark 7:1-15**

- Facebook the series
- I am that guy that closes the garage at times...I'm trying not to be!
- How you live, how you influence those in your social circles or networks really does matter!
- Jesus came with grace and forgiveness, healing and kindness, he surrounded himself with those he could influence, many of them sinners...
- Your world, I don't care if you are 20 and if that consist of a dormitory, if you are 30, 40 or 50 or 60 working a job, if you are playing cards, scrabble on Facebook, hanging out, fishing, hunting, building, playing, cutting someone's hair, managing a group of people or selling stuff!!! Your status in this life, unless you are just pretending to be close to Jesus, for your status update, you should consider the question...what status is Jesus giving me today!
- The world is watching! They are watching those who claim to be disciples of Jesus, if there really is a difference! The world is watching our church, how are we united, together, a body that seeks to worship God not just with our lips, but with our hearts! We worship God today! Not our memory of God out of memory for our worship, but we worship the God who changes lives today!

## ***1) One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus.***

- Investigative field-trip, not a kind visit, not even curious
- Not a bad thing on the surface, they had the role of protecting the Jewish Faith from influences
- But, we know that they can't stand Jesus! Hatred and Jealousy never rests! It always hunts...if you have someone in your life who you hate or you're jealous of, you probably don't sleep well. You are constantly looking for them to fail or fall, what a miserable existence!

**2) They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating.**

- First couple of weeks, Jesus confronted them in what they were thinking and murmuring about:
  - That he forgave sins
  - That he hung out with sinners
- Then they changed their approach, they began criticizing his disciples:
  - Why don't they fast
  - Why are they harvesting on the Sabbath
  - Why don't they wash their hands
- They can't seem to make anything stick to the teacher, lets go after the students.
- The handwashing isn't for germs...

**3) (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. 4) Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)**

- Some say that they would go as far up as their elbows
- Mark's gospel was written to a gentile audience, so he takes a little time to explain what this washing is about, including all the other things that they wash.

**5) So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony."**

- Exodus 30:17-21
- This was it, this is what the handwashing was derived into tradition from!

**6) Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,**

**'These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.**

**7) Their worship is a farce,  
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'**

- Isaiah 29:13
- Their worship is a FARCE
- You do all this stuff, washing your hands, washing your feet, washing your cups, washing your couches, tithing from the herbs that grow around your house, fasting and praying, holding to the sabbath...you do all this stuff, but you are PRETENDERS! You don't mean it! Your hearts are far from me! You are in this for yourselves.

**8) For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."**

- Not only are you pretenders...not only are all your acts of worship ineffective and useless, but you use your traditions to break God's law to go against His will!

**9) Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition. 10) For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ 11) But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ 12) In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. 13) And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”**

- In Judaism of that time, they honored the Scriptures - what we would call the Old Testament - as the written law. But there was also the oral law, which was written down, but was man’s tradition and interpretation on top of the written law. Many Jewish leaders of Jesus’ time honored the oral law even more than the written law.

- “Rabbi Eleazer said, ‘He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come’ . . .

- "The words of the Scribes are lovely beyond the words of the law, for the words of the law are weighty and light, but the words of the Scribes are all weighty."

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

- The Core Value: Biblical Authority - The Bible is True and Relevant....in other words, it speaks to today! It is our Authority, not just a collection of good ideas. The heart of your elders and pastors is to follow it, lead from it and live it!

- Last week, I said that Jesus wasn’t honoring the Sabbath, when in fact he was! He and his disciples were accused of it, but he is Lord of the Sabbath and knew how to honor it! No one busted me on this!

- I am not say that the Bible is authoritative, I’m saying that it is our authority!

- Corban! This type of sacrifice was could also be an animal sacrifice in which the animal was cooked properly and eaten by the giver...

- so in some instances a son who would declare “Corban” could and would use some of the money for HIMSELF, while giving some to the temple

- Their tradition sidestepped the word of God.

- Remember Matthew 5:20, **“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”**

**14) Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “All of you listen,” he said, “and try to understand. 15) It’s not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.”**

- Read Mark 7:17-23

- Not a license to be foolish...every outward sin begins with an evil thought or foolishness!

### **What we can learn from this passage:**

#### **1) We can not become like the Pharisees**

- We cannot place the traditions of man over what God has called us to do!

- We can't limit our impact on the world around us in fear of becoming “unclean” vs. 4

- We cannot worship with lip service...Could God say about us:

- You serve in a ministry area...but your heart is far from me!

- You give an offering every week... but your heart is far from me!

- You say beautiful prayers... but your heart is far from me!

- You go to all the bible studies... but your heart is far from me!

#### **2) The World is still watching the disciples...US!**

- The hard reality is that as much as we put the emphasis on Jesus (and we should), people are going to check out the followers of Jesus to see if it's real (and they should).

- The world will know us by how we love each other

John 13:34-35, **“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”**

- The world is watching our good deeds

Matthew 5:16, **“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.**

- The world needs to know WHO makes us clean!

Hebrews 10:19-22, **“19) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20) By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21) And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, 22) let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”**

Conclusion: If Jesus Facebooked...would you do a better job connecting your life to his?

INVITATION