



How To Be Made Clean

Mark 7: 1-23

Crossroads March 27, 2011 by Mark Bickel

Clean and Unclean

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed. (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.)

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?” 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. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 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), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 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.’”

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’? 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.”)

He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ 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.’”

Notes:



Upcoming at Crossroads

- **Worship, Teaching and Fellowship** – Sundays at 6:30 pm
 - Next Sunday – Hang out at someone’s home after Crossroads (to be a host see Justine)
- **Sports** – Mondays at 6:00 pm (Indoor Soccer)
- **Bible Study and Prayer** – Thursday at 8:00 pm (I Corinthians 15a)

- **Delaware County Young Adults Fellowship Gym & Game Night**– Sat. April 2 at 6:30 pm – GBFC
- **International Student Ministry Planning & Prayer** – Sun. April 10 after church / lunch at church
- **BFC Young Adults Fun Day** – Saturday April 16 at 2:00 pm – Victory Valley
- **Special Easter Services** – April 21, 22, 23, 24
 - **Maundy Thursday** (Special Crossroads Bible Study at 8pm)
 - **Good Friday** (Grace BFC service at 7pm) / **Easter Sunday** (Grace BFC service at 9am)
 - **Crossroads Easter (Crossroads Dinner Sat. at 6:00pm, Celebration at 7:00pm)**
- **NA Babysitting** – Friday April 29 at 7:15 pm
- **Work Day** – Saturday May 7 at 8:00am - We will be working together on a project for the church
- **Tailgate Party for Crossroads and Grace BFC Youth** – May 18 at 5:15 – Grace BFC
 - **Reilly Concert** – 7pm in the sanctuary – get free ticket to reserve your seat at gracebfc.org
- **BFC Young Adults Retreat** – June 10-12 – Pinebook {new lower cost this year!}
- **Crossroads Summer Missions Trip** – July 23-31 – Samaritan’s Purse - Details soon

Other Events of Interest

- **Conference on Science and Faith: God & Materialism**
 - April 8-9 at Westminster Seminary (wts.edu)
- **Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology: Children of God – Adopted in the Father’s Love**
 - April 29 – May 1 at Tenth Pres. (alliancenet.org)
- **NEXT Conference: “How Does Christ Transform the Way I Look at the World”**
 - May 28-31 in Orlando (thisisnext.org)

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| April 3 | Finding Faith in Unexpected Places - Mark 7:24-8:12 |
| April 10 | Not Seeing or Understanding - Mark 8:14-30 |
| April 17 | Following Christ to the Cross - Mark 8:31-9:1 |
| April 23 | Easter Celebration (Sat. at 7pm, after 6pm dinner) |
| May | Hot Topics in Christian Life |

Find us Online: Gracbfc.org/crossroads

Includes audio/ teaching notes for Sunday talks, Calendar of upcoming events, Photos and Videos, ...