

How to be Made Clean

Mark 7:1-23

Crossroads, March 27, 2011

Announcements:

- **This Sat** – Delco Gym & Game April 2 – bring snack or drink, games
- **Next Sunday** – Hangout at someone’s home after Crossroads!
- **Sunday April 10** – International Student info / planning at noon
- **Saturday April 16** – BFC YA Fun Day at Victory Valley
- **Missions Trip** – July 23-31 (note: France July 15-31) – see Erik TONIGHT
- **TONIGHT:** Basket up front to give for Japan (use envelope, write Japan)
- **THIS WEEK:** setting date for summer shore trip / camping trip, see MB

READ Mark 7:1-23

Pray

1) Tonight

- **“How to study the Bible” – OIA on your own**
 - o *Application: Head, Hands and Heart*

A) **Several illustrations of similar point, to 3 different audiences** – Use audiences to organize tonight’s study

2) Traditions of Men

- o **Audience: Religious Leaders**
- o **Work Through Mark 7:1-4**

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.)

- o Unwashed Hands ... why care about washed hands, dishes, etc?
- o **Discuss: What kind of traditions do you have?**
- o Cleanliness ... what is it?
 - Cleanliness ... but not for germs, for religious purity
 - OT Law ... further rules to help people obey
 - Traditions – grew out of laws
- o **Discuss: What kind of traditions does Grace / Crossroads have?**
- o **Work Through Mark 7:5-7**

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.”

- o Why do disciples not follow tradition of elders?
 - Is tradition wrong?
 - Was it wrong to follow law, or even go beyond it?
 - What is the problem then?
- o **Isaiah 29:13**

The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but **their hearts are far from me**. Their **worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men**.”

- o **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

“As for you, son of man, your countrymen are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD.’ **My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice.** With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.”

- **Work Through Mark 7:9-13**

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.”

- Use religious devotion as excuse to not obey God
 - Swap tradition for obedience
- **Implications / Interpretations**
 - Danger of **Legalism** – making rules beyond God’s. Assuming self good if keep them, others bad if not
 - Danger of **Hearing and not Obeying** – like to listen, sing, etc. but heart far from God
 - Danger of **Justify Sin** – religious sounding excuse for not obeying the Word of God

3) Being Made Unclean

- **Audience: Crowds**
- **Work Through Mark 7:14-16**

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.’”

- Unclean – is it about the outside or the inside?
 - In reading law it can sound external – what do, touch
 - But here Jesus challenges that – God not concerned about what goes into a person, but what comes out ... concerned about the inside not the outside
- **Implications / Interpretations**
 - **What is God interested in** – washing of items or heart ...
 - Example: **dirt on outside, or inside of cup?**
 - Cleanliness rules are not about cleanness of vessels but cleanness of people!
 - What are the **crowds looking at / concerned about?**
 - Miracles, healing, dynamic teaching
 - Religious looking people
 - What is **God looking at / concerned about?**
 - Inside, heart

4) Being Made Clean

- **Audience: Disciples**

- **Work Through Mark 7:17-19**

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.”)

- Explains comments to crowds
 - Example of food – goes into stomach and through body
 - True uncleanness comes out, from heart
 - (side note: that makes food clean, it can not defile)

- **Work Through Mark 7:20-23**

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.’”

- Jesus now applies these principles to practical issues **of sinful thoughts and actions**

Example: Hit Cup of Water ... why water on floor

- Typical answer – because hit cup
- Typical counsel – stop hitting cup
- Jesus’ answer – water in cup
- Jesus’ counsel – change what is in cup

Example: Why get angry and yell at someone at work

- Typical answer – tired, hard day, you provoked me...
- Jesus’ answer – anger in heart

- **Luke 6:43-45**

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

- **Fruit ... comes from a tree of the same type**

- Our actions show what kind of tree underneath
- Thus the way to change fruit is to change tree!

Example: Fruit Stapling ... try to change actions without fix tree

- Need to get to root sins of heart under our actions

- **Implications / Interpretations**

- **What defiles you?** Outside things, or your heart
- **When you see sinful actions where do you look?** – to change situations, or others, or your own heart!
- **How will God change us? – by changing our heart!**

Application for us

- **Religious person**

- Are you trying to get to God with rules and traditions?
- Are you using religion to ignore the commands of God?

- **Crowds**

- Are you in awe of the outward, or willing to look inside and consider your heart?
- Realize God will look at and weigh the heart

- **Disciple**

- Do you see your deeds reveal your heart?
- Will you let God address and change you from within?

- **All**

- Are you worshiping God with your whole heart?