

Series "The God Who Serves"
"Tradition Versus Scripture"
Mark 7:1-13
Study-23

Mark 7:7 – "Vain" – means "empty, useless, pointless, lifeless, hypocritical worship."

Mark 6:6-8:30 – "Withdrawal"; Jesus' Final Ministry in Galilee and Beyond.

In our passage, "Tradition" – 5X, Verses 3, 5, 8, 9, 13; Conflict not over Scripture but Traditions!

Thought Of Our Passage: "Beware Of External Religion, Which Majors In The Outward And Minors In The Internals Of The Heart"

1. Verses 1-5 – The Accusation Of The Religious

2. Verses 6-13 – The Answer Of Jesus

1. Verses 1-5 – The Accusation Of The Religious:

Mark 7:1

Storm on the Sea of Galilee, Mark 6:45-52

Mark 6:54-56

Recorded also in Matt 15:1-9

"Pharisees" – "to separate, separate ones"; Origin during the Babylonian captivity; Arose to defend the Jewish way of life against all foreign influences.

"Scribes" – were Pharisees, but not all Pharisees were Scribes. They started with Ezra who was a scribe. They wrote the Scriptures; became familiar, (Lawyers)

Elders – Represent the leading rabbis of the past who held to the minute details of their interpretation of the Law.

Mark 7:2

Mark 6:43

"with impure hands" – literally, "common"; technical sense "unhallowed, profane, Levitical – unclean" Ex 30:19; 40:12

Pharisees Watch Others In Order To Discover Faults: "seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands"

Mark 7:3

"carefully" – ("diligently") wash their hands, "fist"

"Traditions" – There is a difference between tradition and truth. Tradition is outward; truth is inward. Tradition has to do with ritual; truth has to do with reality. Tradition is something you keep; truth is something that keeps you.

Tradition – "what is handed down"; teachings of Moses which were orally transmitted in unbroken succession; the instruction and interpretation of the Jewish leaders which were handed down and to be obeyed with equal reverence"

This term "Tradition" can go two different ways:

1. Tradition Is Referred To As Scripture That Was Handed Down:

1 Cor 11:2

2 Thess 2:15

2. Tradition Is Man's Interpretation That Was Handed Down:

The Jews called Tradition – (Mishnah 2nd Century) "Tradition is a Fence around The Law"

We Are Warned In Scripture To Beware Of The Tradition Of Men: Col. 2:8

Col 2:16-17

Matt. 23:4

Mark 7:4

"cleanse themselves;" – "washing"; All refer to "baptisms, would sprinkle themselves after they came from the market place"

The Jerusalem Talmud, says, "The words of the scribes are more lovely than the words of the Law." It says, "It is a greater crime to transgress the words of the school of Rabbi Hillel than the words of the Scripture." It says, "My son, attend to the words of the scribes more than the words of the Law."

Rabbi Eleazar said, "He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come."

Pharisees Major On The Minors: (Letter Versus Spirit)

Mark 7:5

Pharisees Demand That All Must Follow Their Ways: Puts others in bondage – Apostle Peter said Acts 15:10

2. Verses 6-13 – The Answer Of Jesus:

Mark 7:6

Isaiah 29:13

Pharisee's Religion Is Merely External Not Internal: hypocrites – "one who speaks from beneath, an actor, stage player, pretender"; Greek actors wore masks and one would speak from beneath the mask. Matthew 7:21

The Real Need Was That Of A New Heart: "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me."

Pharisees False Tradition Exalts Man And Minimizes God: Mark 7:7

"vain" – "empty, useless, pointless, lifeless, hypocritical worship"

Pharisees Abandoned God's Commandments To Honor Man's Tradition: Mark 7:8

"Neglecting" – "giving over; the act of giving up, the surrender of cities"

"you hold to" – "seize, retain" the tradition of men."

Mark 7:9

Verses 10-13 – Jesus Illustrates Undermining God's Word By Their Tradition: Mark 7:10 (Exodus 20:12; 21:17)

Matthew 15:4 – "For God said,"

Mark 7:11

“Corban” – Hebrew word meant “a gift or offering vowed or given to God”

Mark 7:12-13

Obedience to tradition made a person disobedient to the Word of God;
and this proved that the tradition was false.

Matt. 15:12

Application:

1. Beware Of External Religion, Which Majors In The Outward And Minors In The Internals Of The Heart.
2. A Pharisee Majors On The Minors. The Letter Of The Law Versus The Spirit Of The Law.
3. A Pharisee’s False Tradition Exalts Man And Minimizes God.