

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 19, 2015

Passage: Mark 7:1-23

Memory Passage: Mark 7:15

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 7:1-13.** What is important about the fact that the Pharisees & scribes come from Jerusalem (cf. 3:22)?
- (b) What is the primary issue the Pharisees & scribes address with Jesus in verses 1-5, and why is it important to them?
- (c) Have the Pharisees & scribes properly applied Ex. 30:18-21, 40:30-32, & Lev. 15:11? Why or why not?
- (d) Why does Mark include the parenthetical statement (vs. 3-4), and what does it tell us about “the tradition of the elders?”

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 7:1-13.** Do you think Jesus’ response in v. 6-13 is harsh? Why or why not?
- (b) What are the two problems the Jewish leaders have, according to Jesus’ use of Isaiah 29:13?
- (c) How do these leaders, “leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men?”
- (d) How does the allowance of “Corban” (dedicating something to God for His glory, whether it remains in one’s possession or not) cause the leaders to “make void the word of God?”
- (e) How does Jesus’ statement (vs. 6-13) answer the leaders’ question (v. 5)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 7:1-13.** What were the Pharisees trying to accomplish by the “traditions of the elders,” and was this necessarily a wrong goal? Explain your answer.
- (b) How are believers today proving to be hypocrites in their worship and teaching? In what ways are you tempted?
- (c) In what ways do modern churches implement extra-biblical traditions in order to enforce their view of moral purity?
- (d) In what ways do *you* hold others to extra-biblical commands? Be honest with yourself as you answer: are there certain behaviors, attitudes, actions, thoughts, or practices that are not specifically prohibited or commanded in Scripture, yet you make judgment on others because of your own perception of obedience or morality?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 7:14-23.** How does Jesus’ statement to the crowd (vs. 14-15) connect to both vs. 1-13 & 15-23?

(b) Using only Mark 1-6 as evidence, how do you defend Jesus' right to "declare all foods clean" when the Mosaic Law clearly teaches otherwise (cf. Lev. 11 & Deut. 14)? Why was His declaration any different from those of the Pharisees?

(c) Take a moment to define each of the sins listed in vs. 21-22, and identify which ones are thoughts, actions, or both.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 7:14-23.** What does "defile" mean?

(b) To what does one's "heart" refer, and how does it participate in one's defilement?

(c) How does Jesus' explanation of defilement conflict with the Pharisees' explanation, and what difference does this make for those who "understand?"

(d) Classify each of the following groups according to the parable of the soils in chapter 4: (1) the Pharisees; (2) the scribes; (3) the crowd; (4) the disciples. Give your reasons for each classification.

(e) What do you "understand" about Jesus' teaching in this section of Scripture, and why was it so radical?

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The Heart of Defilement