

Sermon Notes:
Mark 7:1-23
Tradition

When you find yourself on the wrong side of worshipping God

Sin changes our heart on an individual scale while tradition changes our heart on a corporate scale.

Dangerous states of the Heart of a people and a community

Feeding of the 5000

Jesus walks on the water

The begin to do miracles and heal people

Then people come looking for Jesus for more food, they reject him

John 6:66–71 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. [67] So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” [68] Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, [69] and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” [70] Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” [71] He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Mark 7:1–23 Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem,

This is the second time scribes or pharisees come down from Jerusalem to harass Jesus. *Mark 3:22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”* They are looking for chance to disagree.

A combative heart

Signs: ready to disagree regardless of what is said, argue with imaginary people

This has been the heart of people against Christianity from the beginning because Jesus threatens the status quo.

Why: Jesus is power and their Power is threatened

We see this in King Herod’s reaction to the one to be born king of the Jews in the Christmas story.

How to deal with: Grace and Truth you cannot control other people’s hearts. Their soil is their soil. You can only diagnose your heart.

1 Peter 3:14–16 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in

you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (ESV)

[2] they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. [3] (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, [4] and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) [5] And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

The traditional heart

Signs: Elevation of works over people, using the law as a weapon against others

Ceremonial Washing:

[Exodus 30:17-21](#) The Lord said to Moses, "You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet. When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

Pour 2 times right and left

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu al n'tilat yadayim.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us concerning the washing of the hands.

Why: We have believed the lie of performance-based love

We do this without even realizing it this permeates our thinking.

For example today, The order of service, quality of music, wearing certain clothes to church,

Tradition is a slippery slope because tradition tends to happen when we project our morality onto other people.

Tradition entangles groups of people putting our hope in physical things. Our hope is in God.

Gospel = church attendance, baptized, tithing, quality of music,

Gospel = turning from your sin to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, letting Him transform your life

Christmas traditions:

Be careful how you speak,

Set Christmas traditions that honor God, birthday cake, jothams journey

Danger of Tradition

Stop desiring to know the word of God

Used by believers to attack other believers

How to deal with: Truth and grace. You have to know the word of God to catch the projection of morality beyond the bible.

[6] And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

[7] in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

Isaiah 29:13–16

[13] And the Lord said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

[14] therefore, behold, I will again
do wonderful things with this people,
with wonder upon wonder;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

[15] Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

[16] You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
that the thing made should say of its maker,
“He did not make me”;
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,
“He has no understanding”? (ESV)

Our world has done this... turned the things of the Bible upside down. This is what it looks like in the church
We love like the world instead of having a crazy love
We hold people hostage when they make a mistake instead of having radical forgiveness

[8] You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

Beware of those that devalue the word of God.

[9] And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! [10] For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' [11] But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)—[12] then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, [13] thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

The Loophole Heart

- Attempting to do what you want while keeping the letter of the law
- Satan's scheme in the temptations quoting psalm 91 and trying to force scripture against scripture

Example: Corban – dedicated to the lord so I can't give it to you.

Signs: lack of responsibility for their sin, they simply make an excuse

Why: They love themselves more than they love other people

How do we deal with: Meekness mixed with grace and truth

What Defiles a Person

[14] And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: [15] There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." [17] And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. [18] And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, [19] since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) [20] And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. [21] For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, [22] coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. [23] All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Luke 6:45

[45] The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

evil thoughts, vs thoughts of God
sexual immorality, vs purity
theft, vs giving
murder, vs love
adultery, vs commitment
[22] coveting, vs contentment
wickedness, vs goodness
deceit, vs truth
sensuality, vs self control
envy, vs support
slander, vs encouragement
pride, vs meek
foolishness. Vs thoughtfulness

[23] All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Final Warning:

Ezekiel 33:30–33

[30] “As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, ‘Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.’ [31] And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. [32] And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it. [33] When this comes—and come it will!—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.” (ESV)