

GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST, SERVANT OF GOD
VIOLATING TRADITION

1. WHAT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE? IS THAT INFLUENCE GOOD OR BAD?
 - A. **MARK 7:5-13** 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?" ⁶HE REPLIED, "**ISAIAH WAS RIGHT WHEN HE PROPHESED ABOUT YOU HYPOCRITES; AS IT IS WRITTEN: " 'THESE PEOPLE HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME. ⁷ THEY WORSHIP ME IN VAIN; THEIR TEACHINGS ARE BUT RULES TAUGHT BY MEN. ⁸YOU HAVE LET GO OF THE COMMANDS OF GOD AND ARE HOLDING ON TO THE TRADITIONS OF MEN. ⁹AND HE SAID TO THEM: "YOU HAVE A FINE WAY OF SETTING ASIDE THE COMMANDS OF GOD IN ORDER TO OBSERVE YOUR OWN TRADITIONS! ¹⁰FOR MOSES SAID, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER,' AND, 'ANYONE WHO CURSES HIS FATHER OR MOTHER MUST BE PUT TO DEATH.' ¹¹BUT 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), ¹²THEN YOU NO LONGER LET HIM DO ANYTHING FOR HIS FATHER OR MOTHER. ¹³THUS YOU NULLIFY THE WORD OF GOD BY YOUR TRADITION THAT YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN. AND YOU DO MANY THINGS LIKE THAT."**
 - I. 4TH OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY FULFILLED HERE IN MARK
 - II. CORBAN - ALL THAT I CAN SPARE MATERIALLY IS DEDICATED TO GOD AND I CANNOT HELP MY PARENTS.
 - III. [YOU DO MANY THINGS LIKE THAT]
 - (1) MANY HAND WASHINGS
 - (2) FAULT FINDING
 - (3) HOLDINGS TO TRADITIONS OF MEN IN PREFERENCE TO GOD'S WORD.
 - (4) CEREMONIAL WASHING OF BODY
 - (5) CEREMONIAL WASHING OF CUPS, POTS, AND VESSELS
 - (6) DEMANDING THAT ALL MEN TO FOLLOW THEIR OUTWARD RELIGION
 - (7) INSISTING ON OUTWARD CLEANSING, THOUGH VOID OF THE INWARD
 - (8) HONORING GOD WITH LIP SERVICE, NOT WITH THE HEART
 - (9) CARRYING ON VAIN WORSHIP
 - (10) REJECTING AND CASTING ASIDE GOD'S LAWS AND TEACHING MAN'S
 - (11) SUBSTITUTING MAN'S RELIGION FOR THAT OF GOD
 - (12) REJECTING AND SETTING ASIDE MOSES WHILE CLAIMING TO FOLLOWING HIM
 - (13) USING RELIGION TO FREE ANYONE FROM PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY
 - (14) USING RELIGION AS A MEANS FOR PERSONAL GAIN
- B. THE THINGS TO STAY AWAY FROM
 - I. **MARK 7:14-23**¹⁴ AGAIN JESUS CALLED THE CROWD TO HIM AND SAID, "**LISTEN TO ME, EVERYONE, AND UNDERSTAND THIS. ¹⁵NOTHING OUTSIDE A MAN CAN MAKE HIM 'UNCLEAN' BY GOING INTO HIM. RATHER, IT IS WHAT COMES OUT OF A MAN THAT MAKES HIM 'UNCLEAN.'**" ¹⁶ ¹⁷AFTER HE HAD LEFT THE CROWD AND ENTERED THE

HOUSE, HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM ABOUT THIS PARABLE. ¹⁸"ARE YOU SO DULL?" HE ASKED. "DON'T YOU SEE THAT NOTHING THAT ENTERS A MAN FROM THE OUTSIDE CAN MAKE HIM 'UNCLEAN'? ¹⁹FOR 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.") ²⁰HE WENT ON: "WHAT COMES OUT OF A MAN IS WHAT MAKES HIM 'UNCLEAN.' ²¹FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF MEN'S HEARTS, COME EVIL THOUGHTS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, THEFT, MURDER, ADULTERY, ²²GREED, MALICE, DECEIT, LEWDNESS, ENVY, SLANDER, ARROGANCE AND FOLLY. ²³ALL THESE EVILS COME FROM INSIDE AND MAKE A MAN 'UNCLEAN.' "

(1) 7TH PARABLE IN MARK

(2) FORGET ALL THE CEREMONIAL LAWS, IT IS THE ACTION OF MAN THAT COUNTS, THE THINGS THAT START IN HIS HEART.

(A) THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT LEAD TO THE 'DEATH' OF THE SPIRIT. THEY ARE NOT PROFITABLE TO YOU!

(3) HOW DOES JESUS' VIEW OF BECOMING 'UNCLEAN' DIFFER FROM THAT OF THE PHARISEES.

(4) IN WHAT WAYS DO WE SOMETIMES EMPHASIZE APPEARANCE OVER INTERNAL REALITY?

(5) MANY OF THE TRADITIONS OF THE ELDERS WERE EMBELLISHMENTS ON THE OLD TESTAMENT CEREMONIAL LAW. THUS THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW AND THE TRADITIONS SERVED TO DISTINGUISH JEWS FROM GENTILES. HOW DOES JESUS STANDARD OF UNCLEANNESS CUT ACROSS THE JEW-GENTILE DISTINCTIONS.

C. WHO IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S BLESSINGS

I. MARK 7:24-30 ²⁴JESUS LEFT THAT PLACE AND WENT TO THE VICINITY OF TYRE. HE ENTERED A HOUSE AND DID NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW IT; YET HE COULD NOT KEEP HIS PRESENCE SECRET. ²⁵IN FACT, AS SOON AS SHE HEARD ABOUT HIM, A WOMAN WHOSE LITTLE DAUGHTER WAS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT CAME AND FELL AT HIS FEET. ²⁶THE WOMAN WAS A GREEK, BORN IN SYRIAN PHOENICIA. SHE BEGGED JESUS TO DRIVE THE DEMON OUT OF HER DAUGHTER. ²⁷"FIRST LET THE CHILDREN EAT ALL THEY WANT," HE TOLD HER, "FOR IT IS NOT RIGHT TO TAKE THE CHILDREN'S BREAD AND TOSS IT TO THEIR DOGS." ²⁸"YES, LORD," SHE REPLIED, "BUT EVEN THE DOGS UNDER THE TABLE EAT THE CHILDREN'S CRUMBS." ²⁹THEN HE TOLD HER, "FOR SUCH A REPLY, YOU MAY GO; THE DEMON HAS LEFT YOUR DAUGHTER." ³⁰SHE WENT HOME AND FOUND HER CHILD LYING ON THE BED, AND THE DEMON GONE.

(1) JEWS WERE THE FIRST CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM

(A) **MATTHEW 8:12** BUT THE SUBJECTS OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE THROWN OUTSIDE, INTO THE DARKNESS, WHERE THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH."

(2) THIS BREAD HERE REFERS TO THE BENEFITS THAT THE MESSIAH WAS TO BRING TO THEM, WHICH INCLUDED SALVATION FOR THE BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT - SALVATION FROM SIN, SICKNESS, DEMONS, AND SATANIC POWERS.

(A) AS SEEN ABOVE THESE ARE FAMILY RIGHTS, LEGAL RIGHTS, PROMISED RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIVINE RIGHTS, AND REDEMPTIVE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN OF

GOD. CHILDRENS CAN HAVE WHOLE LOAVES IF DOGS CAN HAVE CRUMBS.

- (B) THE WOMAN ACKNOWLEDGED HER POSITION AS UNDESERVING AND WITHOUT LEGAL COVENANT RIGHT TO THE CHILDREN'S BREAD, AND YET SHE USED THE LORD'S OWN WORDS CONCERNING DOGS AS GROUNDS FOR FURTHER CLAIM FOR HEALING. EVEN DOGS HAVE SOME RIGHT - RIGHTS TO THE CRUMBS THAT THE MASTER THROWS AWAY AND WOULD GIVE TO THEM. CHILDREN HAVE ENOUGH BREAD AND TO SPARE, SO SHE CLAIMED THE SCRAPS FOR HER DAUGHTER AND WON HER CASE.
- (C) CHRIST COULD NOT TURN DOWN SUCH FAITH BASED UPON SUCH CLAIMS. IF SHE GOT HEALING ON THESE GROUNDS, CERTAINLY THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GET THEIR PART OF THE BREAD.
- (D) ALL BELIEVERS ARE PROMISED WHAT THEY WANT AND THEY GOVERN THEIR OWN SUPPLY BY FAITH.
- (E) THE PROPER WAY TO GET HEALING OR ANY OTHER ANSWER TO PRAYER.
 - (i) **1 PETER 5:7** CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU
- (F) NOT ONE PERSON EVER WENT AWAY FROM JESUS' FEET WITHOUT A BLESSING, THINK ABOUT IT.
- (G) WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT THE WOMAN "HEARD" JESUS?
- (H) WHAT WOULD OTHERS THINK OF JESUS' HEALING OF THIS CHILD?
- (I) WHAT ARE THE CREDENTIALS THAT GOT THE HEALING FOR THE CHILD?.

D. JESUS MINISTER TO GENTILES

- I. MARK 7:31-37 ³¹THEN JESUS LEFT THE VICINITY OF TYRE AND WENT THROUGH SIDON, DOWN TO THE SEA OF GALILEE AND INTO THE REGION OF THE DECAPOLIS. ³²THERE SOME PEOPLE BROUGHT TO HIM A MAN WHO WAS DEAF AND COULD HARDLY TALK, AND THEY BEGGED HIM TO PLACE HIS HAND ON THE MAN. ³³AFTER HE TOOK HIM ASIDE, AWAY FROM THE CROWD, JESUS PUT HIS FINGERS INTO THE MAN'S EARS. THEN HE SPIT AND TOUCHED THE MAN'S TONGUE. ³⁴HE LOOKED UP TO HEAVEN AND WITH A DEEP SIGH SAID TO HIM, "**EPHPHATHA!**" (WHICH MEANS, "**BE OPENED!**"). ³⁵AT THIS, THE MAN'S EARS WERE OPENED, HIS TONGUE WAS LOOSENED AND HE BEGAN TO SPEAK PLAINLY. ³⁶JESUS COMMANDED THEM NOT TO TELL ANYONE. BUT THE MORE HE DID SO, THE MORE THEY KEPT TALKING ABOUT IT. ³⁷PEOPLE WERE OVERWHELMED WITH AMAZEMENT. "HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING WELL," THEY SAID. "HE EVEN MAKES THE DEAF HEAR AND THE MUTE SPEAK."
 - (1) WHAT PRACTICAL PURPOSE DO YOU THINK WERE SERVED BY JESUS' PUTTING HIS FINGERS INTO THE DEAF EARS AND TOUCHING HIS TONGUE?
 - (2) THROUGHOUT MARK'S GOSPEL PHYSICAL AILMENTS ARE SEEN TO HAVE SPIRITUAL COUNTER-PARTS. THE DEAF MAN IN THE ACCOUNT IS OBVIOUSLY OF SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS? WHO IS THE ANSWER?
 - (3) HOW DOES DEAFNESS EFFECT THE KINDS OF THINGS THEY SAY?
 - (4) NOW, AS THEN, THOSE WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAF - WHETHER THROUGH HARDNESS OF HEART OR THROUGH SUBSTITUTING TRADITIONS FOR TRUE OBEDIENCE CAN BE HEALED BY JESUS.