

Sermon Discussion Guide

Tradition, Legalism, and Hypocrisy

Mark 7:1–13

A controversy over hand washing

- Why were the scribes and Pharisees upset about Jesus' disciples not washing their hands before eating?
- Discuss the implied accusation made against Jesus in verse 5.
- What counter charge does Jesus bring against the scribes and Pharisees in verses 6 to 13?

The danger of legalism

- Discuss some of the different forms legalism takes. Which form is the greatest temptation for you?
- What are some preferences or convictions you have that you're tempted to elevate to the level of divine command?
- How can you avoid the danger of legalism?

The danger of hypocrisy

- What is a hypocrite?
- What are some of the characteristics of a hypocrite? How are you tempted to play the hypocrite?
- How can you avoid the danger of hypocrisy?