

## Notes – Marks 7:1-23

## A matter of the Heart

Related Texts:

Rom. 14:14 - <sup>14</sup> I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus <sup>(A)</sup>that nothing is unclean in itself, <sup>(B)</sup>but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Isa. 29:13 - And the Lord said:  
 “Because <sup>(A)</sup>this people <sup>(B)</sup>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,

Exo. 20:12 - <sup>12</sup> <sup>(A)</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, <sup>(B)</sup>that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Exo. 21:17 - <sup>17</sup> <sup>(A)</sup>“Whoever curses<sup>[a]</sup> his father or his mother shall be put to death.

v. 1-13

the Jews developed their own traditions which replaced the Word of God

14-23 – it is from the heart that sin arises

Related texts:Sermon:

**True Religion of our Lord Jesus Christ must begin and flow out of men and women’s hearts, that it, from the depths of their human personality.**

It is not a surface belief, something they talk about but doesn’t really reach to the souls, their minds, their inner being – the core of who they are and what they believe and practice. Once Jesus described people who did not have true faith as white-washed tombs...

## Article of Faith 1 - The Scripture

We believe that the Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, are the inspired ("God-breathed") Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority on all matters upon which it speaks, requiring unreserved submission in all areas of life. We believe that all Scripture centers around the LORD Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and its message is energized by the Holy Spirit so that it is active in people's lives.

### I. **People love to develop their own religious traditions to cling to rather than submit to the authority of the Word of God. v. 1-5**

#### **Discuss v. 1-5**

John 2:6 - <sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there <sup>(A)</sup>for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty <sup>(B)</sup>gallons.

Jesus had other things to say about surface religion:

Lu. 11:37-38 - <sup>37</sup> While Jesus<sup>(E)</sup> was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. <sup>38</sup> The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness

Matt. 12:34 - <sup>34</sup> <sup>(A)</sup>You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, <sup>(B)</sup>when you are evil? <sup>(C)</sup>For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Current Examples:

RC -  
Priests don't marry  
"sacrifice of the mass"

7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist – Ellen G. White  
Sabbath keeping – keep commandments of God to justify him  
before the universe  
Sunday worshippers have mark of beast.

JW – Jesus is a created being, not the eternal Creator

Islam – Jesus did not die on the cross

Mormons – have four books which supersede the Bible  
Ex. - "God was once a man"

Hindus – millions of Gods, just add Jesus to the list – he is not exclusive Lord and Savior

Communism and radical socialism – the political state, the government, is the ultimate authority over individuals' beliefs, morals, family life

Christians:

Some baptize infants, a practice begun during the Reformation. Begun by Zwingli where all members of church were automatically citizens of the nation. If an infant was not baptized, he was considered a rebel against the State.

Celebrate communion once a quarter or once a month  
Calvin submitted to City Council

Human traditions which are opposed to Word of God, or at least outside boundary

## **II. On-the-Surface honoring of God is useless if the heart is far from God. v. 6 The heart is the real issue:**

Psalm 13:15 -

But I trust in your unfailing love; my **heart** rejoices in your salvation.

Joel 2:13 - **Rend your heart** and not **your** garments. Return to the Lord **your** God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Eph. 3:16 - <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches<sup>(A)</sup> he may strengthen you with power<sup>(B)</sup> through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>(C)</sup> <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts<sup>(D)</sup> through faith.

Amos 5:21-22

<sup>(B)</sup>“I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> <sup>(C)</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,  
I will not look upon them.

## **III. People make up human rules and excuses for not fulfilling their solemn obligations to God and to others. v.7-13**

-this is cold, hard hearted lack of love

Hendriksen “an example of irresponsible Pharisaic sophistry, a wicked device to deprive parents of the honor and support due to them. Moreover, what was thus unjustly withdrawn from the parents was not necessarily offered to God at all [it could be kept for oneself].” P. 279

### Why do people do this?

They are rebellious against the Word and commands of God.

-They don't want to submit to the Word of God. Why? Because of indwelling sin...

They think they know more about how to run their lives than does God's Word. How can we be sure our religious practices and traditions flow out of an area based on the Word of God?

-examine everything in light of Scriptures

By James Edward, Com'y on MArk

In the case of Corban, a person could dedicate goods to God and withdraw them from ordinary use, although retaining control over them himself. In the example of [Mark 7] v. 11, a son declares his property Corban, which at his death would pass into the possession of the temple. In the meantime, however, the son retains control over the property – and his control deprives his parents of the support that otherwise would have been derived from the property in their old age.”

Th Greg Trull, Ph.D. Dean, School of Ministry Corban University

...the rich term *qrb*, was utilized by the Old Testament authors to express the reverence of a worshipper bringing sacrifice near to Yahweh. It not only described the action of coming near (the verb form *qrb*), but also that which was brought near, the sacrifice itself (this is the use of the noun form *qorban* – “corban”).

### **Sacred Approaches**

The term “corban” (Heb. *qorban*) is found 80 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. Leviticus houses forty of the instances; Numbers, thirty-eight and Ezekiel, two. All of them refer to sacrifices in worship. In fact, “corban” holds a crucial place in sacrificial terminology.

The very first instructions for Israel's sacrificial worship introduced the idea of “corban:”

When any of you brings an offering (corban) to the LORD, bring as your offering (corban) an animal from either the herd or the flock” (Lev 1:2).

After giving detailed orders for the each of the offering types (Lev 1-7), Moses then summed up Israel's sacrificial worship with the word "corban:"

These are the regulations...for the Israelites to bring their offerings (corban) to the LORD (Lev 7:38-39).

With its crucial position in both the introduction and conclusion to sacrificial regulations, as well as, its extensive use in reference to these offerings, "corban" stands as the central term for sacrifice in the Old Testament. Richard Averbeck goes so far as to say it is "one of the most important terms for understanding the gift aspect of the nature of offerings and sacrifices in the OT."<sup>2</sup>

### Human tradition warning:

Col. 2:8 - <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by <sup>(A)</sup>philosophy and <sup>(B)</sup>empty deceit, according to <sup>(C)</sup>human tradition, according to the <sup>(D)</sup>elemental spirits<sup>[a]</sup> of the world, and not according to Christ.

Col. 2:20-23 - <sup>20</sup> If with Christ <sup>(AY)</sup>you died to the <sup>(AZ)</sup>elemental spirits of the world, <sup>(BA)</sup>why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— <sup>21</sup> <sup>(BB)</sup>"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" <sup>22</sup> <sup>(BC)</sup>referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to <sup>(BD)</sup>human precepts and teachings? <sup>23</sup> These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in <sup>(BE)</sup>promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are <sup>(BF)</sup>of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Gal. 1:14 - <sup>14</sup> And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely <sup>(A)</sup>zealous was I for <sup>(B)</sup>the traditions of my fathers.

### Biblical Tradition:

1 Cor. 11:2 - <sup>2</sup> Now I commend you <sup>(A)</sup>because you remember me in everything and <sup>(B)</sup>maintain the traditions <sup>(C)</sup>even as I delivered them to you.

. <sup>23</sup> For <sup>(A)</sup>I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that <sup>(B)</sup>the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for<sup>[a]</sup> you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death <sup>(C)</sup>until he comes. 1 Cor. 11:23-26

2 Thess. 2:15 - <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, <sup>(A)</sup>stand firm and hold to <sup>(B)</sup>the traditions that you were taught by us, either <sup>(C)</sup>by our spoken word or by <sup>(D)</sup>our letter.

2 Thess. 3:6 - <sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers, <sup>(A)</sup>in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>(B)</sup>that you keep away from any <sup>(C)</sup>brother <sup>(D)</sup>who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

1 Tim. 6:20 - <sup>20</sup> O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. <sup>(A)</sup>Avoid the <sup>(B)</sup>irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,”

Our church: palm branches...

“After Easter, when Jesus’ claims were confirmed by God through his resurrection from the tomb, the words of Jesus became the foundation of a new “tradition” which supplemented the OT. The apostles also were crucial in establishing this new Biblical tradition.’ R. Riesner , p. 824, New dictionary of Biblical Theol’y,

### Relevant Texts

John 2:6 – <sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there <sup>(A)</sup>for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty <sup>(B)</sup>gallons.<sup>[a]</sup>

## **IV. People cannot be spiritually defiled, that is, be guilty of sin, by eating various kinds of foods; it is indwelling sin that defiles people before the holy God. v.14-23**

In order for God to make his people special and unique among the nations of the earth, he instituted certain food laws – mainly certain types of animals which were called “unclean,” such as pork, or fish without fins or scales, like catfish. To demonstrate that they were different from the other nations, they were forbidden to eat these kinds of animals or fish.

But when Christ came, the OT Law became obsolete; it was no longer in effect. This was demonstrate graphically in Acts 10 when Peter, a devout Jew was given a vision by God:

Peter went up <sup>(J)</sup>on the housetop about <sup>(K)</sup>the sixth hour<sup>[b]</sup> to pray. <sup>10</sup> And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into <sup>(L)</sup>a trance <sup>11</sup> and saw <sup>(M)</sup>the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; <sup>(N)</sup>for I have never eaten anything that is <sup>(O)</sup>common or <sup>(P)</sup>unclean.” <sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, <sup>(Q)</sup>“What God has made clean, do not call common.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

God arrested Peter's attention with this graphic vision and used it to begin teaching him that the OT food laws were no longer in effect. This means he could eat pork and catfish if he wanted. But more important it was teaching him that the Gentiles were no longer to be considered "unclean" people but were to be accepted as Christians upon their faith in Christ Jesus, and were to be considered as equals in the fellowship of God's people who trusted in Jesus' death and resurrection to bring them into a right relationship with God. This vision that Peter received signaled a radical change in the relationship between Jew and Gentile. Paul summarizes this in Ephesians 2:13-16:

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Human religious traditions are self-satisfying but useless if the heart is far from God.

v. 2-5 – example of this kind of practice

v. 6-8 - Jesus quotes Isa. 29:13 to show the fundamental fallacy / problem:

Honoring God with lips

Heart far from him.

Worship of God is vain (empty, useless) if it is based on men's commandments, rather than God's.

Commandment of God left behind and replaced by the tradition of men.

v. 9-13 – An example of what they do

**True Religion of our Lord Jesus Christ must begin and flow out of men and women's hearts, that it, from the depths of their human personality.**

AP

Guard our hearts

Paul's prayer – Eph. 3

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom <sup>(AI)</sup> every family <sup>[C]</sup> in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to <sup>(AJ)</sup> the riches of his glory <sup>(AK)</sup> he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit <sup>(AL)</sup> in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> <sup>(AM)</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

Rom. 10:

<sup>9</sup> because, if (A) you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and (B) believe in your heart (C) that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Be sure our religious traditions and practices line up with the Word of God

From Greg Trull:

The ancient word *qorban* (“Corban” as we know it) carries with it important truth for us today. First, as Israelites came near the LORD, they did it by means of holy sacrifice. We have been brought near to God by means of the holiest sacrifice, Jesus. “You who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ” (Eph 2:13). Second, those Old Testament offerings belonged to the LORD, dedicated to Him alone. Though our ultimate sacrifice has been made for us, we today still dedicate offerings to the Lord. “I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to the God” (Rom 12:1). We continue to draw near to God, on the basis of Christ’s work, and offer all we have. We offer ourselves, a gift dedicated and brought before our awesome God.