



## Lesson 10 – Becoming Pure

**Our Victory:** We humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings.

**Memory Verse:** “Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God” - Matthew 5:8

**Daily Declaration:** With a pure heart I will see God - see Matthew 5:8

**Main Scripture:** Mark 7:1-23

7 Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly,<sup>[a]</sup> holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash.<sup>[b]</sup> And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.<sup>[c]</sup>) <sup>5</sup> 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?” <sup>6</sup> 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;

<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

<sup>8</sup> You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

<sup>9</sup> And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’;



and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' <sup>11</sup> 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)<sup>[d]</sup>— <sup>12</sup> then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, <sup>13</sup> thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

<sup>14</sup> And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>17</sup> And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?"<sup>[f]</sup> (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup> And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**Overview:** Jesus is calling you to become holy. The Pharisees in this story were immediately upset because Jesus and the disciples were eating without going through the ceremonial routine first. They failed to see that God was right before them because they were more focused on their manmade rituals than a relationship with Jesus. Holiness does not come from a ritual or from abiding by rules that you must strive to keep. Holiness comes from truly seeking Jesus and his guidance daily and keeping with his commands even when you are alone. When Jesus speaks of those who only honor with their words, he is talking of those who come into church, or a meeting and talk of the things of God, talk of obedience and their daily lives are lived far from him. Man made rituals and church attendance is easy to keep because it can be seen by others,



and you are held accountable. You are made holy in the unseen things that are only between you and God. This is equivalent to saying you have quit drinking, but honestly only quitting long enough to come to church. When you return home, you are drinking again. In the end you haven't quit anything or become anymore pure, you have only entered a form of manipulation or rebellion. Rather than becoming closer to Jesus you are just trying to convince others that you are. This is being double-minded. People will try to use Mark 7:15 as a verse to stand on so that they can continue in Sin. Jesus is not saying drink and do drugs all you want as long as you do good things. That does not line up with the character of God. What he is saying is, while substance may pollute your body, it's what's in your heart that will lead you to continue to sin. The drugs, the sex, the alcohol, are ways we act out in our sin, but they are not the root cause. At the root of these we find character flaws such as Lying, cheating, selfishness, dishonesty, manipulation, hatred..... etc. These are not attributes of men and women of God. We must see ourselves how God sees us. Do you see yourself as forgiven? Do you see yourself as a new creation? If we are ready to walk in the new abundant life God has prepared for us we have to be ready to be consistent in our walk. Equally seek God in all aspects of our life. Doing so will produce Holiness and only ensure we stay in the will of the Father. Society will make you feel as though Holiness is a bad thing, but it is not, it is actual our goal. With obedience to the word and ways of God comes holiness. Purify our lives God, so we look more like you. **See also 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 1 Sam 15:23, 1 Peter 1:15-16**





1. Do we believe that holiness is something we can't obtain?

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2. Why do you think the world has turned the term "Holy" into a joke? (Holy roller, Holier than thou, etc.)

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3. What are some ways we may act at church that we don't act at home?

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4. Is there anything that we take part in in our alone time that we would feel uncomfortable to do in Church? (Conversations, TV Shows, Music, Websites, etc.)

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5. What are your Goals for this week and who can hold you accountable?

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