

Romans 3:10 “As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one.”

Ephesians 2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ^[19] Not of works, so that no one can boast.”

B. We are sanctified through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:14 “Because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:29 “For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His son, that He might be the firstborn among brothers.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in righteousness, ^[17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Rules of Men!

Mark 7:1-20

Lesson #26

1/25/26

I Samuel 16:7 “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider His appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

I. The Pharisees were angry with the Lord’s disciples.

A. They accused the disciples of breaking their traditions.

****Mark 7:1** “The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus.”

****Mark 7:2** “And saw some of his disciple’s eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed.”

****Mark 7:3** “(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.”

****Mark 7:4** “When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)”

Colossians 2:21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch! ^[22] These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ^[23] Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

B. The Pharisees asked Jesus why they disobeyed their traditions.

****Mark 7:5** “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?”

II. The Lord assessed the spiritual problems of the Pharisees.

A. The Pharisees and Scribes were hypocrites.

****Mark 7:6a** “He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

B. They offered heartless worship.

****Mark 7:7a** “They worship me in vain;”

C. They replaced God’s Word with human traditions.

****Mark 7:7b** “... their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

****Mark 7:8** “You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

****Mark 7:9** “And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

III. The Lord addressed a major area they ignored.

A. Jesus reminded them about honoring their parents.

****Mark 7:10** “For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Exodus 21:17 “Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.”

B. Jesus reprimanded them for dishonoring their parents.

****Mark 7:11** “But you say 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),”

****Mark 7:12** “Then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother.”

****Mark 7:13** “Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

IV. The Lord articulated what was truly unclean.

A. The food we eat with unwashed hands is not unclean.

****Mark 7:14** “Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.”

****Mark 7:15** “Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean.’”

****Mark 7:16** “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

****Mark 7:17** “After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.”

B. The filth displayed by one’s life is unclean.

****Mark 7:18** “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can make him ‘unclean’?”

****Mark 7:19** “For 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.)”

****Mark 7:20** “He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’”

****Mark 7:21** “For it is from within, out of a men’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery.”

****Mark 7:22** “Greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.”

****Mark 7:23** “All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’”

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 64:6 “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”