



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022



Take your Pulse

What is a tradition you find meaningful for your faith and/or congregation?

What traditions do you or your congregation hold that might keep someone from experiencing Jesus?

Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 7

We begin this chapter with a confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees. The Pharisees are bothered that the disciples are eating with defiled hands (meaning they have not been ritually cleaned) and therefore not following the traditions of the elders. Jesus calls them out and tells them they are rejecting God's commandments for the sake of tradition. We then learn from the Syrophenician Woman that Jesus came not just for the Jews but for everyone regardless of their nationality or background. Our chapter ends with another healing, this time a deaf man. Once again those who saw this were astounded stating, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



Start the Thinking

When Jesus get angry or frustrated, it never seems to be at the odd assortment of characters that are coming to him for help. Rather it is the religious leaders and people in authority. Why do you think this is? Do you think the same would be true today as it was back then? Why?



Conversing with God

Dear Jesus,

Help us to see that you are bigger than any tradition that holds us bound and that your love is for all. Forgive us when we get stuck in our ways and open our eyes and ears so that we too may experience the awe and wonder of everything you do. Amen.



Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen