

The Gospel of Mark: Session 7

...the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (1:1)

Lies & Legalism in the Kingdom (Mark 7)

- Jesus is Challenged on Tradition & Defilement (7:1-23)
- The Syrophenician Woman's Faith (7:24-30)
- Jesus Heals a Deaf Man (7:31-37)

Overview: Think back over what we've read in Mark so far. What are some situations we've read about where Jesus encountered the unclean? What is always the result: does Jesus become unclean when He touches the unclean? In Chapter 7, Jesus is confronted with legalism and lies concerning cleanness. Jesus teaches what truly makes someone unclean. Then, Mark records two stories that show Jesus healing unclean people living in unclean places. We will be encouraged by the goodness of our Savior, who truly does all things well.

7:7: Jesus quotes Isaiah to condemn the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. He says they honor God with their lips but not their hearts. Which is easier to do? Is it easier to check things off of an external list like "don't wear this, don't watch that" or is it easier to deal with the sins of our heart like pride, lust, and anger?

7:8-13: Fill in the blanks to complete these verses and see what the Pharisees are doing to God's Word.

7:8 You _____ the commandment of God and hold to _____

7:9 You have a fine way of _____ the commandment of God in order to _____

7:13 Thus making _____ the word of God by _____ that you handed down.

Question for self-reflection: Legalism takes many forms. Legalism can be the elevation of our human traditions to the place of God's Word. Legalism can be the constant seeking of loopholes in order to get around God's clear commands. What are ways that you tend toward legalism in your life?

7:24-30: What are your first impressions after reading the story of the Syrophenician woman? Some people are offended by Jesus's response to the woman. Does she seem offended by Jesus's response to her?