

IT'S A MATTER OF THE HEART

Mark 7:1-23

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

Matthew 11:18-19 (NIV)

❖ Where Does Your Truth Come From?

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were unclean, that is, unwashed. 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... ⁵So 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?"

Mark 7:1-3, 5 (NIV)

1. Don't be a PHARISEE.
2. Dangerous DECEPTIONS.
3. When our RULES become other's REQUIREMENTS.

❖ When Religious Tradition Trumps Biblical Truth:

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. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." ⁹And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' ¹¹But you say that 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), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." ¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean."

Mark 7:6-15 (NIV)

1. Don't be a HYPOCRITE... saying one thing and doing something else.
2. Don't substitute your PERSONAL BELIEFS for the WORD of GOD.
3. Don't misunderstand striving to FOLLOW RULES versus striving for HOLINESS.

❖ It Really is a Matter of the Heart:

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸“Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him unclean?” ¹⁹For 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.”) ²⁰He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. ²¹For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man “unclean.””

Mark 7:17-23 (NIV)

1. Nothing that you eat DEFILES you... makes you UNCLEAN.
2. It is what you allow into your HEART that defiles you and leads to SIN.
3. Bottom line, it is what is in your HEART that defines who you REALLY ARE.
 - Check your heart... does it measure up to God’s plan for your life?