

Sermon Review Mark 7:9-13

Where we left off last time: Mark 7:6-8 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ‘BUT **IN VAIN** DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’ “**Neglecting** the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

1. Mark 7 began with the Pharisees rebuking Jesus because His disciples didn’t wash their hands before eating and therefore were supposedly “unclean.” Notice that Jesus cites Isaiah 29:13 in His response back where it says that the Jews worshipped God “in vain.” The term vain comes from an adverb in Greek (mahtein) which indicates a fruitless and futile effort. The reason the Israelites in Isaiah’s day and the Pharisees in Jesus’ day were engaged in fruitless and futile worship was because their knowledge of God was derived from the traditions of men rather than God’s word.

Look up Deut. 5:11 and see how the third commandment prohibited such living for those “who took the name of Yahweh.” What does this say about the importance of approaching God on His terms that He has revealed in Scripture (cf. Lev. 10:1-2; Hos. 4:6)?

2. The term “neglecting” comes from a Greek verb (apheimi) which is often used in the Gospels for “abandoning” someone or something. The implication is that the Pharisees had “neglected” or “abandoned” God’s word for their own traditions. What in your life tempts you to neglect or abandon God’s word (i.e. activities, time management, priorities, etc.)?

Mark 7:9-11 He was also saying to them, “You are experts at **setting aside** the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. “For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’; but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God)...

3. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for pitting the 5th commandment (honoring father and mother) against a commandment to keep one’s oath to the Lord in Numbers 30:1-2. The Pharisees claimed that keeping one’s oath to God was more important than taking care of one’s parents, but Jesus firmly states here that these laws were not designed to be held *against* one another! The Pharisees’ tradition of declaring one’s possessions as “corban” (dedicated to God) meant that the person making such a declaration could still use those possessions (or money) for themselves while excluding them from their parents. How does such a tradition betray the ultimate motives behind this Pharisaic tradition?

4. Jesus accused the Pharisees in verse 9 of “setting aside” the commandment of God. This verb is derived from a noun that means “not placed.” The Pharisees found no place for God’s word in their lives and abolished its influence on them in order to keep their tradition. Are there any areas in your life that you hold on to and guard even though you know Scriptures call you to live differently? Are there any doctrines that you suppose are truly taught in the Bible, but you won’t accept them because they offend your sensibilities?

Mark 7:12-13 "...you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus **invalidating** the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

5. Many times when a man declared his possessions to be "corban," he did so out of a fit of anger against his parents. Sadly, even if the man came to his senses and realized he was dishonoring his father and mother by not providing for them, the Pharisees wouldn't allow him to change his mind.

Look up the 5th commandment in Exodus 20:12 and see for yourself that this is the only commandment associated with a blessing. Why would honoring one's father and mother be particularly important to a people learning to live under the authority of Yahweh (cf. Prov. 1:8-10; 13:1; 15:5)?

6. The Pharisees' love for their tradition led them to "invalidate" the word of God. This participle comes from a verb that means "without lordship" or "without authority." This means that the Pharisees had become an authority unto themselves rather than allowing the word of God to reign over their lives.

Look up Gen. 3:4-5 and see how the Pharisees' attitude is similar to the first sin of Adam and Eve. Are you personally allowing the word of God to have authority and Lordship over every area of your life? What areas are you living under the authority of your own traditions rather than being subject to the Bible?

Complete this review by praying for God's grace in those areas of your life where you may need help to live by what God's word says rather than your own tradition.