

EPISODE NO. 250

Mark 7:1-15

God's Command or Man's Tradition?

1 Some teachers of the law and some Pharisees came from Jerusalem to get together with Jesus. 2 They saw that some of Jesus' followers were eating loaves of bread with unholy (that is, unwashed) hands. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jewish people won't eat unless they wash their hands with a ceremony. They carefully obey the old rules of the elders. 4 They won't eat anything from the marketplace, unless they wash it. They have received many other rules which they must obey regarding washing cups, pots, and copper bowls.) 5 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why are your followers breaking the old rules of the elders? They are eating bread with unholy hands!"

6 Jesus said to them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you hypocrites! As it is written:

'These people honor Me with their lips,
but their heart is far away from Me.

7 It does no good for them to worship Me.

They teach rules made by men, not God!' (*Isaiah 29:13*)

8 You have forgotten about God's command and you are obeying the old rules of men."

9 Jesus continued to speak to them, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's command, so that you may keep your traditions. 10 Moses said,

'You must honor your father and your mother.' (*Exodus 20:12*)

and,

'The person who curses his father or his mother must die.' (*Exodus 21:17*)

11 But YOU say that if anyone says to his father or mother, 'It is Corban' (This means: 'Whatever you might have gotten from me to help you is a gift to God.')

12 then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother. 13 You are taking away the authority of God's teaching by using the traditions you have received. And you are doing many other things like this."

Evil Comes from the Heart

14 Again, Jesus called for the crowd. He said to them, “All of you, listen to me, and understand! 15 What goes into the mouth from outside a person is not able to make a person unholy. No, the things which come out of the mouth make a person unholy.”