

THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

--Mark 7:1-13--

INTRODUCTION:

As we begin chapter seven this morning we will see a shift in the tone of Mark's gospel. Mark has mostly recorded for us the amazing supernatural works of the Lord Jesus, he did this to make his case that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Up to this point Mark has not included much of Jesus' teaching with the exception of the parables in chapters three and four. By contrast, the other Gospels have large sections of Jesus' teaching interspersed with the narrative. Beginning in Mark seven we have recorded for us some additional teaching from Jesus. This teaching is provoked by an incident which leads Jesus to indict the Pharisees and scribes with their legalism, specifically their traditions of men.

I. THE PHARISEES' INQUIRY (Mark 7:1-5)

- a. If you remember from John's Gospel, the feeding of the five thousand took place just _____ the Passover.
- b. This group that had gathered around Him had found another occasion to _____ Him.
- c. Mark went on to explain about ceremonial _____ to his mostly Roman readers.
- d. The _____ of the elders consisted of extrabiblical regulations that governed every area of life.
- e. The _____ and the scribes took these traditions very seriously, including the handwashing.

II. THE PROPHET'S INDICTMENT (Mark 7:6-8)

- a. Jesus responded to the Pharisees and scribes but not by answering their question but by indicting them for their _____.
- b. Taking the Pharisees and scribes straight to the _____, Jesus began by pointing to the prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 29:13)
- c. We look on outward appearances, but God looks on the _____.

- a. These hypocrites were _____ that Jesus disregarded their traditions.

II. THE PROPHET'S ILLUSTRATION (Mark 7:9-13)

- a. Having indicted the Pharisees and scribes as the true law breakers by the words of _____, He illustrates how they break the law.
- b. Jesus began by referring to them as _____ of setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.
- c. Jesus then quoted from Exodus 20:12, the ___ commandment of the ten commandments, and from Exodus 21:17.
- d. What precisely did the Pharisees and scribes _____?
- e. Even more strange, the regulations of Corban permitted the person to use his _____ that had been committed to the Lord for himself during his lifetime.
- f. Jesus ended His illustration by declaring that their use of the Corban vow invalidated the _____ of God, the divine revelation given to Moses, and elevated the tradition which they had handed down.

CONCLUSION:

The traditions of the elders were opening all sorts of loopholes to permit people to get out from under the clear teaching of the truth of God. The question must be answered in every mind, where does ultimate authority lie? It must be in the Scriptures alone. If tradition is being elevated above the Word of God, then the tradition must be thrown out. It is easy to look back and say, "Shame on the Pharisees, Shame on the Elders, Shame on the rabbis." But before we do that, we need to look at our own hearts and make sure that the final authority on all theological and moral debates rests solely on the Word of God. The only way we can make sure that the Word of God is our ultimate and final authority is to know the Word of God and that can only be accomplished by reading the Word of God. What have you read this week?