

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Mark 7

Lesson 6

“This is what is important!” “This is the way it’s done!” All too often we find those words spewing out of our mouths. In Mark 7, Jesus challenges that thinking. *For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart* (1 Samuel 16:7). Here we find Jesus confronting traditional thinking and placing our focus on what matters most to Him – the condition of our hearts. May we join the people whose response Mark recorded at the end of the chapter in praising and proclaiming *He has done all things well* – even when they are done so differently than we would have done them.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 7

1. Read through this week’s verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart**.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, immediately, hear, and any reference to religious rulers

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 7. Remember, as you mark the key words *Jesus* and *God*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

DAY TWO: Read Mark 7:1-13

1. Read the last verse of Mark 6 and record what you “see” Jesus doing.

a. Now, read the first two verses of Mark 7 and record what the *Pharisees* and *scribes* “saw” (*found fault with*).

1.) People tend to “see” from their hearts. Describe the hearts of the religious rulers using the following verses:

Matthew 27:18

Luke 11:53-54

Luke 12:1

a.) How does having this kind of heart skew a person’s thinking?

2. How were the practices of the disciples different from those of the religious leaders? Mark 7:3-4

3. What question did the religious rulers ask Jesus? verse 5

a. Using verses 6-9, fill in the blanks which expose their hearts.

This people honors Me with their lips, but _____.

And in _____, teaching _____.

Laying _____, you hold _____ men.

All too well you _____, that you may _____.

1.) Now, describe the priorities of the religious rulers.

4. Jesus gave the religious rulers a specific example in verses 10-13. What did He say they were guilty of?
 - a. Record Jesus' pronouncement of the *scribes and Pharisees* in Matthew 23:23-25
 - 1.) Why is *justice, mercy, and faith* a better representation of God than following religious traditions, especially to an extreme that God does not require?
 - b. Note the result of putting a priority on their *traditions* (man-made rules) was to *make the word of God of no effect*. In what ways can insisting on following *traditions* have a negative effect on God's word?
 - 1.) What are some *traditions* that have confused you?

DAY THREE: Read Mark 7:14-23

1. In reaction to the conversation with the religious leaders in the prior verses, Jesus *called all the multitude to Himself* (verse 14). What did He say to them?
 - a. A man is not defiled morally by what he eats, but rather is defiled by what he thinks in his heart. Read Jeremiah 17:9-10 and paraphrase its message.
2. What word is used three times in Mark 7:14-16?
 - a. Understanding the importance of *hearing*, what did Jesus want the multitude to *hear*? (Read verses 18-23 for Jesus' further explanation)

3. The disciples still did not understand the meaning of Jesus' statement. Yet, in an effort to spiritually *hear*, they asked Jesus to explain it to them. What lesson is there in this for us?

4. Jesus gave examples of the kinds of actions that proceed from the *heart of man*. List three.
 - a. How does the awareness of the condition of your heart, and the fact of what comes out of it, cause you to see your need for God's cleansing and empowering?

DAY FOUR: Read Mark 7:24-30

1. Jesus left and went into Gentile territory, *the region of Tyre and Sidon*. Although He did not want anyone to know where He was, who *heard* about Him? verse 26
 - a. What was her concern? verses 25,26

 - b. This woman had two strikes against her. First, she had a daughter with an unclean spirit. At that time, when a family member had an evil spirit, the whole family was shunned. Second, she was a Syro-Phoenician, a Canaanite, a people who were bitter enemies of the Jews. Before Jesus' comment in Mark 7:27, Matthew 15:23 tells us the disciples had a comment to make. What was it?
 - 1.) Consider Jesus' statement as recorded in Matthew 15:24, *I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*. These words might have deterred others, but not this mother. Record her response in the next verse.

2. *But Jesus said to her, 'Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs'* (Mark 7:27). The *children* are the Jews and the *little dogs* are the Gentiles. Jesus was reminding her of His first calling, to bring the gospel to the Jews. Not taking offense to His statement, but rather agreeing, what was she content to *eat from*? verse 28
 - a. Notice the woman called Jesus *Lord* in both her statement in Matthew 15:25 and in Mark 7:28. She knew Jesus to be *Lord* and she knew He had the power to heal her daughter. Considering her statements and her persistence, what else might she have believed about Jesus?

3. Jesus responded to her with two statements (Matthew 15:28 and Mark 7:29). What did He say?
4. Ponder Jesus in this story. What do you see?
 - a. How does this challenge you when you are inconveniently met with the needs of another?

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 7:31-37

1. *Departing from the regions of Tyre and Sidon, He (Jesus) came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee* (Mark 7:31) A man was brought to Jesus. Describe this man's plight.
2. They people *begged Jesus to put His hand on him*. Using verses 7:33,34 describe what Jesus did and said.
 - a. In what ways are some people stuck in their viewpoints of how God does things?
3. Observe the result of Jesus' actions:
in the life of the man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech (verse 35):

in the response of those who witnessed the healing (verse 37):
 - a. Reflect on the phrase *He has done all things well*. In what ways do you personally attest to that truth?
 - 1.) Thankfully record the words of the *song of the Lamb* from Revelation 15:3.

DAY SIX: Review Mark 7

1. The religious rulers *found fault* with the disciples because they ate *bread with unwashed hands*. Although we realize that washing our hands is wise for our health, it does not affect us spiritually. Referring to the religious rulers, Jesus told the people that *in vain they worship Me*. In what ways do you think it is possible to worship the Lord *in vain*?
2. Ponder the faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman. What can we learn from her?
3. Jesus used an unconventional means to heal the man who was deaf. How might we miss an act of God because of our pre-conceived ideas as to how “things are done”?
4. What lesson have you learned about the heart of man and following traditional ways from Mark 7?

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Chapter Seven

¹Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ²Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. ³For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. ⁵Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" ⁶He answered and said to them, "*Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*" ⁸"For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." ⁹He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' ¹¹But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"--' (that is, a gift to God), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, ¹³making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do." ¹⁴When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. ¹⁶If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!" ¹⁷When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. ¹⁸So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" ²⁰And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²²thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within and defile a man." ²⁴From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. ²⁵For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷But Jesus said to her, "*Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.*" ²⁸And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then He said to her, "*For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.*" ³⁰And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed. ³¹Again, departing from the region of Tyre and

Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³²Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "*Ephphatha*," that is, "*Be opened*." ³⁵Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."