

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 13, Mark 6:53- 7:23

INTRODUCTION

As the Gospel of Mark continues, Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees once again. The last time the Pharisees and Jesus met, it ended with a conspiracy to kill Jesus and attributing Jesus' works to Satan. In Mark chapter 7, Jesus condemns the Pharisees' hypocrisy in following their own religious traditions but ignoring the loving commands of God. Jesus ends his teaching by listing what really defiles a person: their own hearts with evil desires. Jesus' teaching points to the reality that everyone has evil desires and falls short of the glory of God. By the time we get to the end of the passage, Mark has shown us that mankind's only hope to cleanse the deepest of inward stains is for Jesus to fulfill his mission.

PRAYER

READ

Ask two group members to read Mark 6:53- 7:23

SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Share with the group any traditions you had growing up. Have you ever gotten into trouble or been looked down upon because you did something outside of a tradition? Share your experience.*
2. *As a group think through different, present day "external" religious practices that Jesus may consider "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men". Share what your experience with those practices has been.*
3. *Reread what Jesus said to the Pharisees in 7:6-7. Confess times in your life where you are tempted to honor the Lord with your lips but your heart is far*

(ADVENT) PROPHECY OF JESUS

The Son of God: Psalm 2:7

The seed of woman: Gen. 3:15

The seed of Abraham: Gen. 17:7; 22:18

the tribe of Judah: Gen. 49:10

(ADVENT) PROPHECY FULFILLED

The Son of God: Matt. 3:17; Luke 1:32, 35

The seed of woman: Gal. 4:4

The seed of Abraham: Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16

The tribe of Judah: Luke 3:33, Rev. 5:5

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

from Him.

4. In verses 9-13 Jesus describes a way that the Pharisees use their religious practices for their own selfish gain. He finishes by saying “and many such things you do.” *In what ways do you use religious practice primarily for selfish gain? What do you gain from your practice?*

5. Reread verses 14-23. The Pharisees of Jesus’ day were more concerned about being defiled from things outside themselves than from their own sinful hearts. *In what ways do you tend to view or blame the circumstances around you as the cause of your own sin?*

6. Verses 20-23 set up a bleak picture of all people’s ability to be clean on their own. Jesus seems to be pointing forward to the reality that all who desire to be clean must be cleansed by someone outside themselves, namely Jesus Christ. *How does the fact that you can’t clean yourself make you feel? How does it shape the way you view your life? Share with the group.*

ADVENT READING WEEK 1 (Isaiah 9:1-7)

9 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
- The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Mark 7:15

Pray Together

