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| 1  Mark 7:1-30 Sermon Outline  08/20/23  “Defiling Religion, Purifying Faith”  INTRO:  “Religion” used to be a positive term  -Religion=devotion to God/Christ  You can even say “My religion is Christianity”  Today “religion” is taboo word in society, uncomfortable  Now, hip word is “spiritual”  “I’m not religious but “spiritual”/or I have faith” whatever that means  Spirituality/faith=mystical or fuzzy warm feelings | 2  James 1:27  “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this; to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”  THESIS:  In this passage we will look at today, God is going to show you that true religion is to have a purifying faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.  Pharisees and Scribes come back again to oppose Jesus and disciples  -They are like villains in a movie that show up  again after a brief pause  Remember as early as chapter 3, the Pharisees and scribes conspire with the Herodians to kill Jesus  But they ask Jesus why His disciples are eating with impure hands?  Mark explains in parenthesis indicating once again Gentile audience |
| 3  Read verse 5  Jesus quickly responds in verse 6 with a stinging rebuke!  One of the worse things Jesus can say about you  Pharisees thought they were upholding OT but they were not  There are no commands to wash hands before eating, only giving of thanks in Deuteronomy 8:10  Jesus even cites Isaiah against them showing their vain worship and hypocrisy  Jesus is not done…V. 9 Instead of being experts at the law, they are experts at setting it aside.  Then Jesus gives example to back up what he says  Pharisees’ tradition of “Corban”  -parents couldn’t even touch it | 4  Loophole system that allowed disobedience to command to honor father and mother  -Deserved death penalty  The Pharisees were opposite of true religion in Jm 1:27  They did not help widows but oppressed them  -They devoured their money  They were stained from the world internally although they tried to be unstained externally  VV. 14-16 Parable about it does not matter what foods someone eats but what comes out of heart  V. 17 Disciples question Jesus on parable. 6:52 “hearts were hardened” and 7:18 “lacking in understanding”  Some Jews even believed a demon sat on unwashed hands and if they were to eat with unwashed hands, it would enter them |
| 5  Mark: “Oh, by the way Jesus declared all foods clean”  Massive life changing statement!  Jesus made obsolete over a thousand year of following food laws  OT prescribed not eating pigs, blood, bats, shellfish, etc.  Numerous reason people have proposed for why God gave this law  Most sense is God wanted Israel to be set apart and distinct from the nations because that’s what they were eating  Draw the attention of the nations to Yahweh  But as centuries passed from original commands, religious leaders of Israel warped them into legalistic commands | 6  Turned it into a salvation issue  They missed what those external rituals were pointing to: separation from sin and internal purity  Ultimately pointed to Christ!  -Luke 24:27, everything pointed to Christ (not that  every text is about Christ but it points to Christ in  some form)  But it is understandable why disciples were so slow to get it    That’s all they knew all their lives  -Disciples struggled even after Jesus ascended into  heaven  Acts 15:20 Jewish believers still struggled with letting go of their customs and traditions  Even Peter had a hard time  Acts 11:8 “By no means, Lord for nothing unholy or unclean has even entered my mouth!” |
| 7  Jesus goes on to explain what truly defiles….  Read verse 21  Total depravity and dead in one’s sins  Pharisees gave their list  Jesus gave His  Ugly and horrendous sins meant to illustrate the darkness of human heart  List is not for you to simply not do them, but to show you the nature of the human heart  No one is good  Prov. 21:2  “Every man does what is right in his own eyes”  Prov. 14:12  “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death | 8  On that note Jesus gets up to leave to Gentile region of Tyre  Matthew fills us in that the disciples were shocked that Jesus said that saying, “don’t you know you offended the Pharisees?”  Jesus responds in Matthew 15:13 saying,  “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”  It is severe judgment similar to the judgment of God giving someone over to their desires like in Rom 1  Mark introduces us to Gentile woman V. 25  -She has a demon possessed daughter  V. 26 Gives details about her  “Gentile, Syrophoenician race, woman” |
| 9  Every reason to be rejected and outcasted by society  Unclean, a woman, descended from hated enemy race  You couldn’t be more “unclean” by Jews  Like Intersectionality/Critical Race Theory reversed  The more layers this woman had that the Jews despised the less she had authority to speak  I would like to see the social justice movement try introducing wokism in that culture.  But woman not just once, but persistently begs Jesus to deliver her daughter  But Jesus replies in V. 27  Perhaps most would have given up and walked away  -But not this woman | 10  She knew who Jesus was? How? Because of how she addressed him  Matt. 15:22  “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David”  She understood He was the Messiah  Not only did she have faith but persistent faith  Reply in V. 28  She knew exactly what Jesus meant by his parable for she responds by continuing the analogy  What is Jesus and woman saying?  “dog”=Gentile  But two words for “dog”  Not wild/vicious street dog that Jews used  Jesus used “dog”= house pet |
| 11  Calling her “dog” still tells her she is not the priority  Salvation has always been first to Jew, then to Gentile  -Just like OT  That’s why Paul says in Rom. 1:16  For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first then to the Greek.  Although Paul is known as the apostle to the Gentiles, he initially focused on the Jews. But he was met with so much rejection that he focused his ministry to Gentiles saying “Your blood be upon your own heads, I am clean, from now on I will go to the Gentiles!”  Children’s bread=salvation, good news  Matt. 15:24  “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” | 12  Jesus is not being rude or indifferent  but delaying his response to display her tremendous faith to the world  Gen 12 is clear that nations were always included in God’s plan  However there was proper order, a design that needs to be followed  Amazingly she replied humbly and knew her place  “How dare you Jesus! How dare you be partial to a certain people group!  -Not like Pharisees in John 8 who said to Jesus  “we are descended from Abraham”  She understands Israel’s privilege and status and that she is at the mercy of God |
| 13  Romans 9:4 to the Jew belong “adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises.”  Israel was blessed to be a blessing to others  “Children’s crumbs”=even a fraction of what Israel had would save her  Jesus and woman use two different words for “children”  Jesus = “teknon” = biological children  woman = “paidion” = biological children + household servants  Point is that woman understood that God’s mercy extended beyond ethnic Israel  Read v. 29  Jesus commends her not because she is quick witted but because of her faith. She was willing to humble herself | 14  Didn’t ask for sign or bombastic display from Jesus  Truly walking by faith not by sight  This story is not an accident after Pharisees  Deliberately contrasting hardened unbelief of Pharisees with softened heart and faith of woman  Pharisees have everything they need  Woman has nothing  Pharisees descended from Israel with all its benefits  Woman is descended from Israel’s hated enemy race  They are pure externally but inwardly corrupt  She is impure externally but inside is pure  This is the great irony:  Very ones who should have been pure are not and the ones who are not expected to are |
| 15  Pharisee’s religion of handwashing actually turned out to be their defilement  Like Pontius Pilate who tried to wash away her guilt of crucifying the Lord of glory with water  Or like lady MacBeth trying to wash away the invisible blood stain she seer in her hand  Woman has no such ritual or religion, all she knows is that she is at the mercy and grace of Jesus  She trusted that at a word, she would be made completely clean  James 4:10  Humble yourself in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you  Which camp are you in?  Pharisees?  Maybe you are like Roman Catholic and believe if you do xyz you are saved? | 16  Maybe you are trying to atone for all the bad stuff you did in your life but doing good  Are you in camp of this woman?  Nothing she has to offer to God  Spiritually bankrupt  No matter how dirty of a past you have, you know Jesus can take away your blood stain?  Are you the person in the hymn  “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling”?  No one can do good Jer 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin? Or the leopard his spots?”  -No!  Absolutely nothing you can do. Permanent |
| 17  Bible says you are dead. What can dead men do? Nothing  You can live in a desert to get away from a sinful world but sin will always follow  You can sleep on a bed of spikes, appear pious and extra spiritual, but if there is no heart transformation you are no better than a whitewashed tomb who looks clean on the inside but inside are full of dead men’s bones  You need to be regenerated  Bible calls it being “born again”  Titus 3:5-7  “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.” | 18  Fall at the feet of Jesus for…  Acts 4:12 says,  “there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” Let’s pray |