



Mark:
Just Jesus

**Tradition &
Heart Condition**

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Coronavirus can cancel a lot of things, but it does NOT cancel [#BowTieThursday!](#)

On a serious note, it's easy to feel anxiety and stress about so many drastic changes to the flow of our everyday lives. Let's do what we can to safely find moments of normalcy amid the chaos.



Sharon Faison, Catherine Clark and 172 others

54 comments

Mark 7:1-8

¹ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

Mark 7:1-8

³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.

⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

Mark 7:1-8

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

Mark 7:1-8

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

Mark 7:1-8

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”



When we blindly elevate a tradition...

When we blindly elevate a tradition...

We value practices above people.

Mark 7:5

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

When we blindly elevate a tradition...

We value practices above people.

We lose sight of the meaning of the tradition.

Mark 7:9-13

⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!” ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’

Mark 7:9-13

¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—
¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother.
¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

When we blindly elevate a tradition...

We value practices above people.

We lose sight of the meaning of the tradition.

We focus on outward appearances.

Mark 7:14-15

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”



Focusing too much on **others'** outward appearance is **legalism**.

Focusing too much on **others'** outward appearance is **legalism**.

Focusing too much on **our own** outward appearance is **hypocrisy**.

When we blindly elevate a tradition...

We value practices above people.

We lose sight of the meaning of the tradition.

We focus on outward appearances.

Mark 7:17

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.

Mark 7:18-19

¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

Mark 7:21

²¹ “For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts
come . . .



The condition of our heart matters most!

Mark 7:21-23

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”



We aren't sinners because we sin.
We sin because we are sinners.

Romans 8:13

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if **by the Spirit** you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey **from your heart** the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.



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