

The Spirit of the Law

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Mark 7:1-13 NIV

This passage is an example of Jesus cutting to the _____
- getting to the _____ behind the issue.

- In this case, with regards to the issue of _____.

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus... [v1]

These religious leaders were sent from Jerusalem to _____
_____ with Jesus.

What happens?

*(The Pharisees and teachers of the law) saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the **tradition of the elders**. 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.) [vs. 2-4]*

The Pharisees were referring to the _____ - a detailed list of guidelines compiled over years of oral tradition that were intended to _____ on living out the _____.

“...Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?” [vs. 5]

No longer is this conversation about washing - **it's about heart posture and true alignment with the scriptures.**

He (Jesus) replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites;

as it is written:

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

*They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.’*

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” [vs. 6-8 – taken from Isaiah 29:13]

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

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Matters of washing and being deemed 'clean' or 'unclean' was just the _____
_____. The real issue was _____ that were far from God resulting in:

- worship that is _____
- _____ teaching

Jesus is saying that the Pharisees and teachers of the law, _____
_____ in their effort to adhere to the _____ that they had constructed.

2 Key Things to Note:

1. Jesus' extremely high view of _____.
2. Jesus is not against _____.

*And he (Jesus) said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is **Corban**’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. [vs. 10-12]*

Corban boils down to people _____ their resources to God and, thus, rendering them _____ to any other use - no matter how important.

Then Jesus says, ***“Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” [vs. 13]***

“Nullify” means to make of _____ or _____.

How do we misappropriate the Bible in ways that run the risk of nullifying God's Word?

Q: What was it that the Pharisees and teachers of the law were missing as they read God's law (and that we might be missing too)?

A: The spirit (the fundamental heart) of God's Law: _____
(Matthew 22:34-40)