

Sunday, August 7, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 7:1-9: The Commandments of Men

Mark 7:1-13

- ***Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.***
- In Mark 6:53-56 Jesus came into the land of Gennesaret where he went through the whole region healing the people.
- Mark 7:1—at the beginning of verse 1 we see the Pharisees and scribes come to Jesus (i.e., into the region of Gennesaret) from Jerusalem.
 - Matthew 14:34-15:1
- ***And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. 3) For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. 4) And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.***
- Mark 7:2—the Pharisees find fault with some of Christ’s disciples because they ate bread with defiled or unwashed hands.
 - Defiled—comes from the Greek word meaning common or ordinary. In the minds of the Pharisees this means unhallowed, profane, or unclean according to the standards of the Levitical Law. See Acts 10:14, 28
- The reason that Pharisees view the disciple’s defiled hands is because they did not wash them. It is important to understand this is not an issue of hygiene, rather it is a ritualistic or religious issue.
- Mark 7:3—tells us that the Pharisees and Jews would not eat unless they washed their hands often. This was not a legal requirement of the Mosaic Law but a tradition that the Jews elders had added over and above the law.
- Mark 7:4—elaborates and informs us that there were many other traditions that the religious leadership of Israel had added to the law.
- The Pharisees were requiring more of the people than God was in the Mosaic Law. Then they were judging people based upon whether or not they were keeping their traditions. It is important to note the reason why the Pharisees found fault with the disciples and viewed them as defiled in verse 6, they violated their tradition.

- *Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? 6) He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7) Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8) For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.*
- Mark 7:5—the Pharisees ask Christ why his disciples are not following the tradition of the elders by eating bread with unwashed hands.
 - Matthew 15:2
- Mark 7:6—Christ answers that Isaiah well prophesied of them as being hypocrites for leading the people to honor God with their lips while their heart is far from him.
 - Isaiah 29:13—these people are just being religious. They said all the right things. They have all the proper outside etiquette and behavior but their heart is unbelieving. Their fear toward God is taught by the precept of men. They believe that favor is found before God by following the teachings, doctrine, traditions, and commandments of men.
- Mark 7:7—mark well what Jesus says about this type of worship, He calls it vain i.e., empty, worthless, and of no value. Why? Because they are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.
- What does Jesus equate worship with in this verse? Doctrine. Why was their worship vain? Because their doctrine was incorrect. Verses like challenge what most of professing Christendom views as worship.
- John 4:23-24—if truth is not present worship is not occurring. How often have the “great hymns” of the faith been sung without the accompaniment of sound doctrine?
 - I Timothy—1:3, 10; 4:13, 16; 5:17; 6:1, 3
 - II Timothy—3:10, 16
- The primary thing that brings honor and glory to God is not the style in which the music is sung, the order of service, or any other external religious trappings but is the word of God rightly divided being preached?
- II Timothy 4:1-4—as a local outpost of the great body of Christ our mandate is to preach the word. Our mandate is to be the pillar and ground of the truth (I Timothy 3:15). Our goal have all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4).

- Mark 7:8—the Pharisees laid aside the commandments of God in favor of their own traditions and then judged the spiritual condition and worthiness of those around them by their own man made standard.
- Mark 7:9—the end of religious legalism is an outright rejection of the clear commands of God in favor of one's own tradition.
- I Corinthians 14:37—professing Christendom in our day has rejected Pauline authority in favor of their own traditions.
- Galatians 1:11-14—Paul had profited in the Jews religion and was zealous of the traditions of his father's but he gave it up so that he could preach the gospel of the Grace of God.
- Philippians 3:4-9—Paul gave up all the religious works and performance he was trusting in so that he might win Christ.
- Colossians 2:8—Paul warns members of the Body of Christ about the spoiling nature of the traditions of men. Mark my words Grace People have their own traditions and judge people based upon how they conform to their standards.
 - Music, Christmas, Easter, Dress