



*Our journey to Jesus can seem complicated but that's only for self-righteous.

**Mark 7:1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 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.)*

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: "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.'

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

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.' 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."

*Exalting man's ideas on defilement or protocol thus nullifying God's Word.

1. **Who determines** what is clean and what is defiled in your life? **If you or others determine what is clean or unclean you will live a defiled life. This kind of thinking will lead to legalism.**
2. **How many spiritual rituals** can you do and your heart still not align with God's? **You can do every spiritual ritual known to humanity and still be unclean in your heart.**
3. **Fake honor to parents** is not honorable at all! **Our God allows us to call him father. Until you honor him through surrender you will only experience earthly righteousness (honor.) Honor God or parents with our lips when our hearts are far away from both.**

**Mark 7:14 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." 16*

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

20 He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. 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."

*How spiritually dull is the 21st-century believer?

1. **V:14-17 We are people who know more about harmful foods** than impure hearts or spirits.

2. **V:20-23 Twelve areas that take authority over the heart and soul.**
 - A. *Sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, and malice. In these six areas, you have agreed with the evil one to have physical authority against another person's life.
 - B. *Deceit, lewdness (Carnality), envy (Evil eye), slander (Blasphemy), arrogance (Pride), and folly (Foolishness.) These six areas are things that attach to your spirit or become you.

**Mark 7:24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. 25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." 28 "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.*

***Are you willing to humble yourself and rely on the mercy of God for a miracle?**

1. **V:24-26 Jesus does a reset on clean and unclean people.** Anyone seeking Jesus enters into the Kingdom of God and there are no prejudices there.
2. **V:27-30 The Syrian woman replied little dogs** eat the crumbs from the children's table.
 - A. Jesus knew this woman's faith and was given mom what she needed the deliverance for her daughter. While teaching humanity about a humble and contrite heart. It also reveals a secret ingredient of surrender by those who are truly desperate.
 - B. *Desperation allows God to operate however He chooses.

**Mark 7:31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). 35 At this, (Immediately) the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."*

***Jesus uses anti-socially and unacceptable healing methods that would also be considered unclean.**

1. ***V:35 Immediately! Isaiah 35:5-6** Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. (Prophecy is fulfilled)
2. **V:37 He has done everything well!** The greatest miracle is deaf spiritual ears opening and