

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *November 6, 2022* | Scripture: *Mark 7:1-23*

1. Read the passages from the sermon together. If you've heard this passage before, what stood out to you this time? Did you see any new details you missed before?
2. What are the ways you try to clean yourself up from the outside in?
3. How are you tempted to use religion the same way as the pharisees did? Where have you prioritized your own tradition or culture over Biblical principles?
4. What is different about the kind of faith Jesus preaches?
5. What is the significance of Jesus declaring that all foods had been made clean?

Inward Grace in Action

The outside-in approach to religion finds the root of all our problems in things and people outside of us and seeks to control those things and people to keep oneself pure. In complete contrast, the gospel informs us our biggest problem is actually within our own hearts and we cannot control or fix ourselves.

The danger most of us face is saying we believe and live according to Christ's inside-out work, but living according to the outside-in model in practice. Here are a few questions to help you assess if you're working outside-in without realizing it:

- Do you think God loves you less if you miss your quiet time or fall asleep during church?
- Have you found yourself with a calling in the public or private sphere that's edged out living in a Christlike way?
- Is your fundamental effort in turning the whole of your heart to God, or is it just making a world that follows all the rules you want it to follow?
- When your guard is down, what comes out? The fruits of the Spirit, or what's listed in Mark 7:21-22?

Action: Read over Mark 7:21-22 this week and ask God to reveal the ways you personally struggle with these sins, then reflect on the freedom and purity you have in Christ. Reach out to a friend in your Community Group this week and remind them of their victory in Christ.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 30:17-21
- Psalm 51
- Isaiah 29:9-16
- Matthew 23:1-12
- 1 Timothy 4:1-10
- James 1:19-27

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for Cornerstone Schools as we support them through our Thanksgiving Offering this year, that they might complete their bathroom renovations and find vans to meet their needs.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org