

Sermon Notes

“Truly Clean”

Mark 7:1-23

October 12, 2025

5. In what ways are Christians today hypocritical? In what ways do we sometimes emphasize appearance over internal reality? What traditions do you hold on to that can go against the commands of God? What can we do to place tradition – especially religious traditions – in proper perspective?

6. How has your view of spirituality changed over the years? What is the passion of your spiritual life now?

7. Consider Jesus’ list of things within us that make us unclean (7:21-23). Which are problems for you? How does a person deal with such things? If you don’t know, how can you find out?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-12-2025

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 82-3; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 102-3; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 36; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 77-9.

Getting Started:

1. When have you felt like throwing in the towel because of petty religious issues? What kept you going?

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 7:1-23.

2. In your own words, explain the difference between the Pharisees' view of "uncleanness" and Jesus' view (7:14-23)? How did the quotation from Isaiah (Mark 6:6-7) contradict the Pharisees?
3. How were the Pharisees being hypocritical in this instance (7:9)? What example did Jesus give to prove his accusation against the Pharisees (7:10-12)?
4. What does "corban" mean? How was the idea of corban being misused (6:9-13)? In practice, what authority was more binding for the Pharisees – traditions or God's commands? Why?