

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 16: Mark 7:1-23

To wash or not to wash (vv. 1-13)

Matt. 15:1-9

- Ceremonial washing was based on requirements for priests
 - These washings pertained to entering the Tabernacle (Ex. 30:19; 40:13)
 - The Pharisees thought these should apply to everyone in Israel
- The oral law was originally intended to safeguard breaking written law
 - By Jesus' day oral law often conflicted with or even overrode God's law
- Jesus quotes from Isaiah 29:13 to begin His response
 - He condemns elevating man's law over God's

Why does Jesus call these Jewish leaders hypocrites?

- There are very clear commands in Scripture regarding the honor of parents
 - Jesus quotes Exodus 20:12 (Deut. 5:16) and Exodus 21:17
- Corban is referenced 81 times in Leviticus, Numbers, and Ezekiel

What are Jesus' issues with this practice of Corban?

The source of defilement (vv. 14-23)

Matt. 15:10-20

- To defile is to make someone ceremonially unclean; common
- Jesus tells the crowd that the source of defilement is internal

Why don't the disciples understand Jesus' statement about defilement?

- Jesus ties defilement to the intentions of the heart
 - To the ancient mind, the heart was the seat of the will, morals, and ethics

Where else in the gospels does Jesus teach something like this?

- Jesus' list in vv. 21-22 contains both actions and attitudes
 - The first seven are plural, which are actions; the last six are attitudes
 - "evil eye" = envy; "foolishness" = reckless behavior

How does this teaching compare with Paul's in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20?