

†

G O S P E L A C C O R D I N G T O M A R K

- G O D ' S K I N G D O M -

F O L L O W I N G P U R I T Y

M A R K 7 : 1 - 2 3

Warm up question:

- Are you, or do you know someone who is a stickler for rules? What's helpful about being a stickler for rules and what's unhelpful about it?

Read Mark 7:1-23

1. Why do the people take issue with Jesus in this passage?
2. How does Jesus respond to their criticisms? What is his main point?
3. What is the injustice that Jesus describes in verses 9-13? How are these people breaking the law?
4. What motivates the people criticizing Jesus? What motivates Jesus?
5. What sort of things do you see coming out of people that defile them?
6. Jewish laws did not allow people to eat pork, shellfish, and many other foods. What do you think it would have been like for people to hear Jesus declaring all foods clean?
7. What are some of the unspoken food and purity laws in our world today (think of COVID-safe regulations and ethical concerns people have around food and drink)?
8. How might Jesus' teachings on purity and food inform the way we live and serve the people around us today?
9. Are you ever in danger of focusing more on looking like a good person on the outside rather than on the inside?
10. How can we work on the evil that comes out of our hearts?
11. Was Jesus anti-tradition? What are the positives and negatives of traditions?

Rubber hits the road:

- Jesus criticized people who idolized outward purity over inward sincerity before God. How can we prioritize inner purity in our daily lives?

PRAYER

Generous Jesus, thank you that you are King of kings and Lord of lords. Please help us to follow your laws by spending time with you in prayer, learning more about you through the Bible, and gathering with your people. Please help us to put you first and we ask you to purify our hearts and lives from the inside to the outside. Amen

