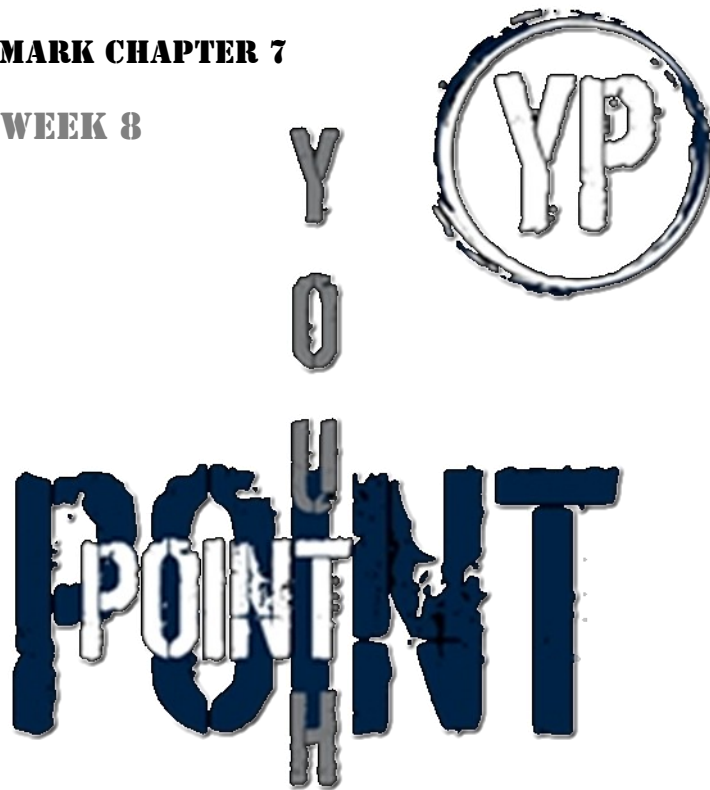




**MARK CHAPTER 7**

**WEEK 8**



## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 1

Find a quiet place or just plug in your headphones in with some worship music (or music that lets you worship and praise Him) and tune the world out.

Then.

Just read.

It's His Word.

#### Mark 7

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 1 continued

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

After reading this chapter, what stood out to you? Did any of it? Write it down below or bracket the section that you were wowed with.

## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 2

#### TRADITIONS DON'T SAVE!

##### Mark 7:1-13

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
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And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is given to God”’ (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

##### Matthew 15:1-9

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

“‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 2 continued

Well, its interesting to define what it was to wash one's hands for the Jews. Also, what is Corban?

Hand washing for them was a ceremonial act. It wasn't really to cleanse them of anything because not enough water was actually used to be able to accomplish that. They would keep the water used for hand washing in a separate stone vessel and would use about as much as would fill an egg and a half, so that would be about 3 ounces (that is if we are talking about a standard Large egg). They would point their fingers upward and let the water run down their hands towards their wrists, then they would scrub their palms with their fists, and then they would point their fingers downward and pour another bit of water letting it run from their wrists to the tips of their fingers. They would do this before eating and in-between each course.

Corban was in a way like an oath to give something to God. You could say Corban towards what you would make or to a certain amount of money that you had and then you weren't obligated to use it for anything else. The thing about it was that you didn't have to give it to God immediately, you could hold onto it for a while or decide later on that you weren't going to give it to God. But, during that time if your parent's asked you for help or anyone else for that matter, you didn't have to help them because your money was to be given to God. It was a way to keep your money without anyone being able to make you feel bad about it. So, your parents could be starving, but your money was Corban.

These Jews were all about traditions, but all these traditions that they held to were not part of God's word. They were things that they had come up with on their own that they instituted as law. Therefore, Jesus accuses them of being hypocrites. A neat way to define it that I saw was as: "one whose whole life is a piece of acting without any sincerity behind it at all." These people "believe that they are good if they carry out the correct acts and practices, no matter what their hearts and their thoughts are like."

Sometimes we are like that - we think that if we go to church, or read our Bibles, or give money, or stay pure, or do other things - that we'll be good with God. But, He says NO - He doesn't care about all those acts, He cares about the Heart behind it all.

It's always interesting to note what Jesus quotes from the Old Testament because at times He leaves off what a passage says in it's entirety and that's where He jabs at them (Pharisees) the most.

#### Isaiah 29:13-14

And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,  
therefore, behold, I will again  
do wonderful things with this people,  
with wonder upon wonder;  
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,  
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 3

#### **Your Heart is what matters, not your Poop!**

##### **Mark 7:14-23**

And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

##### **Matthew 15:10-20**

And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Given that Jesus himself explains this one to the apostles not much explanation is needed right? Right.

But, just in case. . .

Back in their day, actually even in our day orthodox Jews don't eat certain foods based upon Leviticus 11 - such as pigs. We all know that Jews don't eat pork. Ancient texts actually tell a story of a mother cheering on her sons as they were being tortured to death for not eating a pig's flesh. Sad right? But, why? How could a mother watch her son's being brutally tortured and killed and yet cheer? Because to them it was dishonoring to God to eat pork, so it was better to die than to eat.

Back to the law we go.

So, here Jesus switches it up. He proclaims all foods as being clean, since whatever comes into your stomach goes out as poop. But, that which comes out from within our hearts - that's what makes us unclean.

**A Kid with a Demon has an AWESOME Mom!**

**Mark 7:24-30**

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

**Matthew 15:21-28**

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Jesus is now in Gentile territory. This is a place where since the time of Joshua, Israel had not be able to conquer. Tyre was a great harbor/fortress. It was supposed to be part of their land, but things hadn't worked out that way. Now, Jesus was conquering by love instead of weapons in this Gentile land.

"Children be fed first" - commentators claim that this could be Israel, they had first dibbs on being fed by God, by Jesus, on being able to accept Him, but now the dogs - the Gentiles were being fed. To call someone a 'dog' was a terrible insult, but it seems like the version of the word 'dogs' that Jesus used wasn't as bad because in the Greek He added what we would take to be 'little' to the word. So, it would have been taken as 'little dogs' or 'lapdogs' and not as a wild dog.

So, this woman for whom it wasn't appropriate for her to even be around Jesus was asking him for her daughter, was begging like a little dog would at His feet. So, I like how Matthew quotes Jesus: "O woman, great is your faith!" That's awesome! Jesus had been around tons of Jews that had no faith, yet this woman, this Gentile, had 'great' faith!

Remember, we are Gentiles, not Jews.

## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 5

#### WOW!

Why wow? Well, remember back in chapter 5, the guy who had the Legion expelled from him and into the pigs by Jesus. Well, remember that Jesus told him to go proclaim what had happened to him. Well, remember that he proclaimed it throughout Decapolis. Well,...! Here is Jesus coming back into that region and before He gets a chance to teach or anything they are bringing people to Him. Why? Cause of that man!

#### Mark 7:31-37

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

#### Matthew 15:29-31

Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

There is tons to be said about this passage.

Commentators believe that this whole trek would have taken Jesus months to complete with His apostles. That means that they would have been alone with Him for months learning and being disciple by Him. Some think that this trip took up to a year to complete.

So, what’s the deal with this deaf guy?

His friends brought him to Jesus.

What did Jesus do? Well, what He normally does. Had compassion.

Jesus didn’t have to take this guy to the side, He didn’t have to go off to be with him privately, but He did. People had probably been mocking this guy since he was little. He probably felt super ashamed, especially around a crowd because He knew they were talking, yet he couldn’t hear/understand them.



## Week 8 — Mark 7

### Day 5 continued

So, Jesus showed compassion in taking him off apart from the crowd. Given that this guy had a speech impediment, anytime he got nervous it probably got worse. So, being around so many people wouldn't have been fun for him.

Jesus almost always healed with a touch. This guy was no different. Some people believe that the way in which Jesus touched this guy was symbolic to him. That it was in a way a sort of sign language in order to tell the guy 'what He was fixing' and that by looking up, 'who was fixing him.'

Also, notice that the guy spoke "plainly." That it that he spoke perfectly or correctly. This guy hadn't been able to hear, so how would he know the right words, how would he know the right translation, how would he know the language???? Jesus heals instantly. This guy was able to hear and speak perfectly, without having to go to class, without having to go to therapy, without anyone teaching him, without any recovery time. His brain just got it. He was healed instantly. He could talk!

Then, this guy who couldn't talk, but now could, Jesus tells him not to talk! WHAT?!?

Yeah, right!

If you had spent your whole life not being able to talk and in an instant you could; could you contain it, could you not talk? If your brother or your best friend had just been healed like this could you not talk about it?

It's not the first time we have seen Jesus tell people to 'Shhhh! Don't say anything.' So, by this point we should be used to it, but we aren't.

Thing is that He wants people to know Him for who He is and not just for what He can do. He wants the word spread on His time scale and not theirs.

**NOTES:**

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## **Time is SHORT!!!**

We don't live our lives like it is, but this year is nearly over and what have you accomplished?!? What great things have you done? How much time have you spent living for God and seeking Him? How much time have you spent watching tv or movies or surfing the web or playing video games? What has that brought you? Has that brought you peace?

Time is short! He does not guarantee that we will always be able to come to Him. He freely gives us the gift of forgiveness, of being able to repent, BUT just as He freely gives, He can freely take away!

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

‘While he may be found’ - that means that He won't always be found.

Don't put off doing things for God  
because you think you will be able to do  
it one day further down the road of life.  
You don't know how long you have.

Like James 4:14 says “you are a mist  
that appears for a little time and then  
vanishes.”

You don't know when you are going to  
vanish, so don't vanish having lived a  
meaningless life.

