Mark Lesson 21 (2022)

**JESUS CHALLENGES JEWISH TRADITIONS**

(Create In Me A Clean Heart)

(Mark 7:1-23)

**Open it:**

1. What are some of your favorite traditions? What are some of the traditions in your church?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-4. Who was gathered around Jesus? (1) What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law notice? (2) How were the practices of Jesus’ disciples different from those of the Pharisees and all the Jews? (3-4)
2. Read verses 5-8. What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law ask Jesus? (5) According to Jesus’ answer in verses, what were the Pharisees doing wrong? (6-7) When it’s wrong to hold the tradition of men?
3. Read verses 9-13. How were the Pharisees hypocritical in the example described in verses 9-13? What can you do to place traditions – especially religious traditions – in proper perspective?
4. Read verses 14-16. What did Jesus want his audience to do? (14-16) What should people be more concerned about instead of washing their hands?
5. Read verses 17-23. How did Jesus explain the parable to his disciples? What makes a person “unclean”? From the list of “unclean” things that come from within a person’s heart (greed, deceit, envy, etc.), which attitude or action do you need to work on eliminating from your life?

**Apply it:**

1. What can you do to honor the commands of God above your traditions? What is one practice you can eliminate or modify to help you focus on the teaching of Jesus?