

Going for the Heart

December 26, 2021
Mark 7:1-23

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Preliminary:

- Once again Jesus is in confrontation with the Pharisees^{Mk3:6}
- Another editorial comment from Mark^{7:3} about how crazy their rules were
- They washed all kinds of things – including dining couches!
- These were NOT biblical rules – closest Dt8:10; Lev 15:10

So Where Did the Rules Come from?

- These are traditions which came from Scribes who set up boundaries to protect people. {telephone game problem}
- Pharisees were legalists – judged others by law keeping
- Beware of legalism, externalism or moralism

God Cares About Our Hearts

- Jesus' reply⁶ tells us they are hypocrites
- God cares about the heart more than externals^{Isa29:13}
- Biblical Heart is center of personhood, seedbed of thoughts, desires, emotions, and motivations
- God is after your heart, not more rule keeping!

Beware of Externalism

- Danger of religion⁷ is the tradition of men
- Good practices elevated to a standard by which we judge others
- So many examples: parenting style; worship dress
- When things get defined, redefined and interpreted and reinterpreted we lose sight of God's intentions

Beware - Easy to Substitute our Ideas for God's

- Corban - pledge to the temple used to stop honoring parents and caring for them - violation of 5th command
- Many areas they lost the heart of God...

Jesus Points Us to the Spiritual Heart

- It is easy to think our greatest difficulty is OUTSIDE of us, but Jesus says it is our heart!
- Jesus not suggesting that we don't worry about externals or outside evils, He is saying it is the evil inside of us that hooks you to the evils outside of you!
- The heart of the Gospel is acknowledgment that our hearts are not acceptable – we need Jesus!

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