### Mark

## Chapter 7

1Now, some Pharisees and Scribes had come from JeruSalem and surrounded him, 2because they’d noticed some of his disciples eating bread with unwashed hands. 3For none of the Pharisees (or any of the Judeans for that matter) would eat [anything] unless they vigorously washed their hands first, since they followed the traditions of the elders… 4Nor did they eat anything that they brought [home] from the market until after they had carefully rinsed it. They observed many other traditions like this that had been passed down, such as soaking their cups, pitchers, and copper pots in water.  
  
5So these Pharisees and Scribes asked him:  
  
 ‘Why don’t your disciples follow the traditions of the elders?  
  
 ‘Look, they eat bread without washing their hands first!’  
  
6But [Jesus] replied:  
  
 ‘IsaiAh prophesied well about you hypocrites when he wrote:  
  
 ‘With their mouths, these people approach Me,  
 And with their lips, they offer Me praise.  
 But because they’re far from Me in their hearts,  
 7They bow before Me in vain,  
 Since they teach the ideas and instructions of men!’ [Isaiah 29:13]  
  
 8‘You’re really ignoring the commandments of God with all these traditions of men… 9Yes you zealously push aside the commandments of God so you can observe your own traditions!  
  
 10‘[For example], although Moses told you to honor your father and mother, and that anyone who says bad things to his father or mother should be put to death... 11You say that a man should tell his father and mother that everything he owns –that he could use to help them– has already been reserved to be a holy gift! 12So you don’t allow [people] to do anything at all [to help] their parents!  
  
 13‘And by these traditions that you’re passing on, you’re nullifying the Word of God… Yes, you’re doing lots of things like that!’  
  
14Then he called the crowd to him again and said to them:  
  
 ‘I want all of you to pay close attention and be sure that you understand:  
  
 15‘There’s nothing on the outside that goes into a man, which can make him unclean. Rather, it’s the things that come out of a man that dirty him!’  
  
 16‘If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.’ [spurious words, probably copied from Mark 4:9 and 4:23]  
  
17Then, after he left the crowd and went back inside the house, his disciples asked him what he meant by these things that he said.  
  
18And he said:  
  
 ‘Don’t you understand either?  
  
 ‘Nothing from the outside that enters a man can make him unclean, 19for [such things] don’t go into his heart, but into his belly and then into the sewer.  
  
 ‘Therefore, everything that you eat is really clean.  
  
 20‘Rather, it’s the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. 21It’s things that come from the inside – from the heart – that bad thoughts come… Things such as sexual immorality, thievery, murder, 22adulteries, selfish desires, wicked actions, deceitfulness, lack of restraint, eyes that are wicked, blasphemy, arrogance, and unreasonableness.  
  
 23‘It’s all these wicked things that come from inside of a man that make him unclean.’  
  
24And at that, he got up and left.  
  
  
  
Well from there, he traveled [north] into the area of Tyre and Sidon, where he entered a house. And although he didn’t want anyone to know where he was, he couldn’t escape being noticed.  
  
25So when a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard where he was, she came to him and bowed low at his feet 26(she was a Greek woman of Syrian-Phoenician descent). And she kept asking [Jesus] to cast the demon out of her daughter.  
  
27But he told her:  
  
 ‘The children should be satisfied first… It isn’t right to take bread from the children and throw it to the puppies.’  
  
28But she replied:  
  
 ‘Yes Lord, but don’t the puppies under the table eat the crumbs [that fall from] the little children?’  
  
29So he said to her:  
  
 ‘Because you said this, go! The demon has left your daughter.’  
  
30Then when she got back home, she found the child lying on her bed, and the demon was gone!  
  
  
  
31Thereafter, he left the area of Tyre and traveled on through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, and then through the middle of the region called the Ten Cities.  
  
32There, they brought him a man who was deaf and dumb, and they begged [Jesus] to lay his hands on him. 33So [Jesus] led him away from the crowd to a private spot, and he put his fingers in the man’s ears. And after that, he spit and touched the man’s tongue.  
  
34Then he looked up into the sky and groaned and said:  
  
 ‘Eph phatha!’ (which means, ‘Be opened!’)  
  
35Well, the man was thereafter able to hear, and the thing that held his tongue was loosened, so he started speaking normally! 36However, Jesus commanded everyone present not to tell anyone about this… But the more he commanded them, the more they talked about it!  
  
37For everyone was amazed beyond belief, and they were saying:  
  
 ‘He does everything well… He even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak!’