

### WEEK 31 :- MARK 7 & 8

	Event	Region	Matt	Mark
1	Traditions of the Elders (Washing of hands)	Galilee	15:1-20	7:1-23
2	<b>Miracle 24</b> – The Syrophoenician Woman’s Daughter	Phoenicia	15:21-28	7:24-30
3	<b>Miracle 25</b> – Deaf and Dumb Man	Decapolis		7:31-37
4	<b>Healing of multitudes of lame, blind, dumb, maimed</b>	Decapolis	15:29-31	
5	<b>Miracle 26</b> – Four Thousand Fed	Decapolis	15:32-39	8:1-10
6	The sign from heaven	Galilee	16:1-4	8:10-13
7	Leaven of the Pharisees	Galilee	16:5-12	8:14-21
8	<b>Miracle 27</b> – Cures Blind Man	Bethsaida		8:22-26

1. **Isaiah 29:13** “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”

Apply this word of Isaiah to a religious sect in the New Testament, with a focus on the phrase “the precept of men”.

**Answer :-**

Though, Isaiah was speaking about the people of his days, yet this saying was also applicable to the Pharisees and some Jewish scribes in Jesus’ days.

The term “precept of men” spoken of by Isaiah refers to the tradition of elders in the context of the Pharisees. (“precept = tradition”, “men = elders”, so “precept of men = tradition of elders”).

The tradition of the Jewish elders teaches ritual cleansings as a mandate for God’s people. These cleansings include :-

- Washing of hands before eating.
- Washing of cups, pots, brazen vessels, and of tables.

These cleansings were not about hygiene, but spirituality. The cleansings were not commanded by God, but Jewish elders taught them as mandatory for God’s people, hence, they took offense when anyone did not go by them.

(Just the same way teachings against wearing of trousers by ladies, and use of jewelleries are not commanded by God. Yet, some churches teach them as God’s command. Thereby making members of such churches look at believers who disobey such man-made doctrines as sinners.

Ladies of such churches express their fear of God in obeying these man-made doctrines, no trousers, no makeup, no earrings, yet, their hearts are far away from God in that they violate many of what God specifically commands, like submission to husband.

Traditions and doctrines of men must not be equated as God's command. What should be focused on is obedience to God, not to man-made doctrines.)

2. A believer who does not take care of his needy parents, yet spends on church projects, has violated God's command. Discuss.

### **Answer**

God commanded "honor thy father and thy mother". One of the ways to honor our parents is through our substance (money and possessions).

It is wrong for a believer who sees his/her parents in need of the basic things of life (food, clothing, shelter), and instead of using the resources he has to meet those needs, he goes ahead to give all to the church in the name of working for God, and getting reward from Him.

Yes, God is pleased when we give to His work. And as a responsible believer, we should give in church. However, we must strike a balance to it. We are to honour God with our substance, and also honour our parents with our substance.

Giving all we have to God, and neglecting our needy parents, will still result in disobeying God's command.

(Putting our income in percentages will help us. A believer should set aside a portion of his income for God, and a portion should be set aside for himself, his family, parents and the likes. A believer should also not do beyond himself. If you have, give. If you don't have, pray to God to supply. However, everything you give must be according to what you have. Don't do beyond yourself. But be responsible with the resources you have).

3. Mark 7:15 "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.". Discuss.

### **Answer**

Jesus made that statement in response to the cleansing (washing) tradition of the Pharisees and some Jews.

In the first part, he said, there is no food, clean or unclean, that a man can eat and would render the man spiritually defiled (polluted or unclean before God). This is because, the food a man eats enters his stomach, not his heart. And when it digests, it is excreted.

In the second part, he said, what defiles a man is what enters into his heart. Which is why a man should guard his heart. A believer must filter what he sees, hears and thinks, for they have the potential of defiling the man's heart.

And just as the food that enters a man's stomach is excreted, when the heart of a man is polluted, it will produce evil things like evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, murder, thefts, pride etc.

4. "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs". Who were those referred to as "children", and who were those referred to as "dogs". And narrate the underlying story.

### **Answer**

The children refers to the Israelites, biological descendants of Abraham. And the dogs referred to the Gentiles (those who are not Abraham's biological descendants).

The underlying story :- Narrate the story of the woman of Canaan, as stated in Matthew 15:21-28 or Mark 7:24-30

5. Mark recorded the case of a man who was deaf and dumb and got healed by Jesus. Narrate the story.

### **Answer**

Narrate **Mark 7:31-37**

6. **Matthew 15:30** "And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:"

Jesus healed all the sick that was brought to him. However, were there instances where Jesus was unable to heal, and why.

### **Answer**

There was no case of sickness that was brought to Jesus that he could not heal. However, there were cases where Jesus was unable to heal.

These cases were not because of a deficiency in Jesus' power to heal, rather, it was as a result of a deficiency in the receivers. When the receivers do not believe, it affects the move of God's power to heal.

When Jesus went to his hometown where he grew, because of their unbelief, he was unable to do mighty works in them.

It was therefore only in the instances of unbelief, that Jesus was unable to heal the sick.

7. Narrate how Jesus fed about four thousand men with bread and fishes.

**Answer**

Narrate Mark 8:1-10; Matthew 15:32-39

8. Jesus did many signs and wonders, yet in **Matthew 16:1-4** and **Mark 8:11-13**, the Pharisees and Sadducees came to ask him to show them a sign. What kind of sign were they asking for, why were they asking for it, and what was sign did Jesus promise to give them?

**Answer**

They were asking for a sign **from heaven**. Yes, Jesus was healing the sick and casting out devils, etc. He had just even finished multiplying bread and fishes to feed multitude. Yet, they said the earthly signs Jesus was performing was not enough, that they needed a sign from heaven (like the way manna fell down from heaven).

They were not asking for these signs so that they can believe. For the Bible says, they were tempting him. This means, even if Jesus show them the sign from heaven, they will yet not believe. **(Those who saw manna fall down from heaven in Moses' time did not believe either, because they had a hardened heart like the Pharisees. So, giving them a sign from heaven will not help their case.)**

Jesus did not give them the sign they demanded for. Instead, he said the only sign they would be given is the sign of prophet Jonah. The sign of prophet Jonah points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, and that was symbolic of how Jesus will also die and rose again the third day.

9. Jesus said to his disciples "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees". What did he mean and what Pastoral lesson can we learn from it? **(GOLDEN, 90 Seconds)**

**Answer**

The word "leaven" means yeast **(which is used to make dough of bread to rise)**. And in this context, the "leaven" means doctrine.

And just the way leaven (yeast) affects dough of bread, making it to swell, the leaven (doctrine) of the Pharisees and the Sadducees has negative impact on God's word, and the faith of people.

The leaven (unscriptural doctrine) of the Pharisees includes washing of hands, self-righteousness (like fasting and paying of tithes to please God) etc.

The leaven (unscriptural doctrine) of the Sadducees includes rejection of the supernatural. They don't believe in resurrection or existence of angels.

Both sects therefore had issues with their doctrinal beliefs, Jesus therefore warned his disciples of their doctrines.

In the same way, a Pastor has a duty of cautioning his disciples of erroneous doctrines that may affect their faith. Jesus did the same for his disciples. Paul warned the Galatian church in Galatians 1:8, a Pastor should therefore warn his disciples of any doctrine that may affect their faith.

10. In the four gospels, there were two instances where Jesus spit during the process of healing. Briefly narrate the story of the blind man Jesus healed by spitting.

**Answer**

Narrate **Mark 8:22-26**