

## Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

## Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

## CLEAN HANDS OR A CLEAN HEART?

### Mark 7:1-23

**Main Thought:** Mark 7:1-23 teaches us that Jesus requires inner transformation of the heart in His followers, not simply outward obedience to religious traditions.

1. THE TRADITIONALISTS \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS. (vv 1-5)
  - 1) Clean and \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus)
  - 2) The tradition of \_\_\_\_\_ hand washing (Ex. 30:17-21)
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ today
2. \_\_\_\_\_ CONFRONTS THE TRADITIONALISTS. (vv 6-23)
  - 1) Their religion was \_\_\_\_\_ and skin deep. (v 6)
  - 2) Their religion was \_\_\_\_\_ made. (v 7)
  - 3) Their religion sets aside the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for their own traditions. (vv 8-13)
  - 4) Sin is an issue of the \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 14-23; Jer. 17:9)
  - 5) Jesus can \_\_\_\_\_ the heart. (Mark 1:15; Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:1-8)
  - 6) Have you experienced a \_\_\_\_\_ transformation? Are you living in light of that transformation?

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. In prayer ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and reveal God's truth to you as you read Mark 7:1-23.

2. What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings and yourself from this passage?

4. Is there anything you didn't understand in the passage? Were you able to find an answer for your question(s)? If so, what did you discover?

5. What lessons do you learn from this passage and how will you apply them to your life this week?

Digging Deeper:

6. What is the origin of the religious idea of "clean and unclean"? Why was it important? (See Lev. 10:10-11)

7. Why did the Pharisees confront Jesus and his disciples in this passage?

8. What did the Pharisees believe about how a person earns favor with God?

9. What are some of the religious traditions of human beings today that people hold as equal to the Scriptures and judge others for doing?

10. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees and their religious traditions? What did he point out about their faith practices? What was Corban and how did the Pharisees misuse it? (vv 6-13)

11. What did Jesus teach about what makes a person clean or unclean? (vv 12-23)

12. How can someone experience a heart transformation? (Mark 1:15; Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:1-8)

13. How can we live in light of that transformation? (See 2 Cor. 5:17)