

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Inside Out

Mark 7:1-23

Overview

- **You cannot control justification**
 - Pharisees have created a set of rules in addition to Scriptures called Tradition of elders that they make it necessary to follow in order to be faithful
 - Disciples do not follow these extra biblical rules and the Pharisees demand to know why
 - Jesus answers that their accusations by telling them they honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from God
 - Say they love God but really they love themselves and their rules
 - Their worship is in vain due to their being more careful to adhere to their rules more than Gods
 - In adding to the Commands of God they negate them and miss God
 - Adding rules to God's word is an attempt to measure and atone (pay) for wrongs over & against others
 - In short, adding to the rules of God attempts to gain justice by making payment in ourselves and therein taking control from God and placing Justification in our own control (this fails)
 - We all do this in varying forms
 - Our attempting to atone for our wrong doings by adding rules to the Bible and measuring ourselves against others is evidence of our hearts telling us we don't actually measure up
- **Your behavior exposes your heart (not the other way around)**
 - Jesus says: Not what goes in that makes us sin, but what comes out
 - Things on the outside that go in go into the stomach
 - Things that come out of us come from the heart
 - Bible has a very honest view of our sinful hearts
 - Gen. 6.5; Ecclesiastes 9.3; Jer. 17.9; Rom. 1.21; 3:10-12
 - All of the things listed in vv. 21-23 are things that come out of us
 - We are not defiled by the things that come out of us; our very core, our heart is defiled and this is evidence by the things that come out of us
 - It is sin within us that drives us to sinful behavior
 - We sin because we are sinners (not, we are sinners because we sin)

Questions

1. How are all people "religious?"
2. Why is it we are always trying to add to the Scriptures and measure ourselves more against those rules?

3. Why is it we are always trying to atone (pay for our wrongs)?
4. Discuss the concept of sinful behavior going from the inside out, not the outside in.
5. What is it about Justice that makes it the “great interest of man?”
6. Why is it we are weighed down by pushing ourselves to do more, yet it never works...why does it never work?
7. How does true change come?
8. How does Jesus answer our deepest need of Justification? How does He address our hearts and provide atonement?