

Intro.

- A. As said before, Mark's primary emphasis = what Jesus did, more than what He said.
- B. However, in this study text, we gain good insight into Jesus' teaching methods.
 1. Will notice who He taught
 2. Observe that he used different approaches to teaching, depending on His audience, & the lesson taught.

Discuss.**I. TEACHING THOSE WHO ARE SATISFIED (*The Jews*) Mk. 7:1-23 [a 4-stage drama]**

- A. 1st stage – **accusation**: *You people violate our traditions!*
 1. Ignoring ceremonial hand washings, they ate with defiled hands!
 2. Jews called *tradition* = “**the fence of the Law.**” The Law \leq protect tradi., tradi. protected the law.
 - a. Jews declared their traditional washings made them especially spiritual, & others = unclean.
 - b. This showed wrong attitude towards *people* & wrong concept of sin & personal holiness.
 - c. Holiness = matter of inward affection & attitude, & **not just** outward actions.
 3. Here there was a conflict vs God's truth & man's tradi., as well as 2 divergent views of sin & holiness.
 - a. This = heart of much relig. controversy: *Should we hold to tradition & disobey God's word???*
 - b. Not suggesting **all** tradition = bad, but that truth of God's Holy Word = absolute standard of authority.
- B. 2nd stage – **condemnation**: **7:6-13** – *Jesus defended true followers & exposed hypocrisy of accusers.*
 1. Jewish worship = ritualistic – lip service was paid to God, but their hearts were not in it! **c. Isa.29:13**
 2. Indica. => ignorant **or** hypocritical worship leaves the worshipper in worse shape for having done it!!!
 3. When man's ideas & tradi. are revered over God's Word, a worshipper's character is destroyed since they destroy the influence & authority of Truth. **Notice: vs. 7, vs. 8, vs. 9, vs. 13.**
 4. The Jewish *Mishna* says, “*It is a gter. offense to teach anything contrary to voice of the Rabbis than to contrad. Scripture itself.*”
 5. Recong. of the prob. of this kind of thinking in the denominational world brought about the *Restoration Movement* in the mid to late 18th Cent. when many preachers left their tradi. & creeds to preach the Word.
 6. Jesus used 5th Comm. to show how they manipulated the Law so as to violate it & not feel guilty – **Corban, c. Num. 30.**
- C. 3rd stage – **declaration** **7:14-16**
 1. Jesus announced to the whole crowd → *Source of holy living = f/ w/n, not w/out.*
 - a. Christ = actually declaring null & void the Mosaic sys. of clean & unclean foods, but that came later.
 - b. The Jews saw this clearly as a tearing down of the “wall of separ.” between Jew & Gentile, = **angry!**
 2. Timeless principle: *Holiness has always depended on faith, not family!*
 - a. **Psa. 51:16f** Sacrifices were acceptable only when offered w/ a contrite heart.
 - b. Spirituality certainly includes obedience to God's will, but it must come f/ the heart, **Deut. 6:4-6**
c. Ac. 10:14
- D. 4th stage – **explanation** **7:17-23**
 1. Though meaning is Jesus message = obvious to us, remember disciples strictly adhered to the Law.
 2. Jesus goes deeper than outward purity, emphasizing the disposition of man. **Study Mt. 12:34f**
 3. With Jewish opposition towards Jesus growing, he they took disciples into Gentile territory.

II. REACHING THE UNTAUGHT (*the Gentiles*) Mk. 7:24 – 8:9*(3 miracles in Tyre & Sidon)*W/ little knowledge of script, used a practical approach....*Demonstration.*

- A. Cast out a demon, **7:24-30**
 1. A passionate mother w/ a possessed daughter, that could not be discouraged!
 - a. Being a Gentile woman, chances of Jesus helping her were slim to none, had He been typical Jew.
 - b. Satan worked against she & her daughter; the disciples told Jesus to send her away, **Mt. 15:23**
 - c. Jesus told disciples that His ministry was especially for wayward Jews.
 2. Notice this woman's character—**faith, reverent, persistent, humble, caring**
 - a. She knew who Jesus was, *Lord, Son of David* = Messiah. (News spread around region, c. **Mt. 4:24**)