**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 16 – What’s on the Cover?**

**We are back in the Gospel of Mark. Gospel = Good news of Jesus!**

**As recorded by John Mark – follower and disciple of Jesus.**

**Book Cover. We are going verse by verse though the Gospel of Mark.**

**So far Mark has painted Jesus as God with us – miracles follow him…**

* **Water to wine (power over molecules)**
* **Healing lepers and sick (power over diseases)**
* **Cast out demons (power over devil)**
* **Quiet a storm (power over nature)**
* **Raise the dead (power over death)**
* **Feeding the multitude (power over any lack)**
* **Walk on water (power over matter itself)**

**Jesus is blowing the disciple away – and the religious crowd is getting more and more frustrated.**

**Today 2 gotcha moments. His response to each is different**

**Mark 7:1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus (official delegation from Jerusalem to investigate Jesus) 2 and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. (eating with unwashed hands – this was not about sanitizing – there was a ceremonial ritual before eating) 4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)**

**Mishna washing requirements - use just enough to fill a half eggshell, pour at the fingers, running towards the wrist. Cleanse by rubbing your fist into hand. Rinse by pouring water from the wrist towards fingers.**

**Repeat between courses. If you did not do it this way exactly, you can’t know God or even eat! Deep legalistic traditions had become a burden to people’s faith.**

**Some churches have sadly become guilty of some of the same attitudes. Your hair, clothes, prayers, expressions of worship.**

**5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” (traditions of religious folks - nitpicking over the minors)**

**Gotcha ONE – You don’t wash your hands!**

**But this is not really about watching your hands…**

**They accused him – You don’t follow our traditions and convictions!**

**They were attacking him for not following their own rules. Literally implying that if your hands are dirty, your heart must be!!**

**You can’t fix your heart problems with soap and sanitizer!**

**They were trying to treat the symptoms of a heart problem.**

**Jesus responds - Mark 7:6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.**

* **Jesus response – Religious people can be such hypocrites!**

**You say and do all these things, but you don’t have real relationship. You look the part / speak the part - but your heart is still far from God.**

**Attend weekly or watch online – but their heart is far from Me**

**Read you bible and memorize your bible – but heart is far…**

**Pray eloquently and confidently – but their heart is far…**

**Give money and your resources – but their heart is far…**

**Do ministry and mission trips – but their heart is far…**

**Sing praises w/ your lips and raise hands – but their heart is…**

**Jesus then describes three marks of the religious lost**

**7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ (KJV - 7 Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.)**

**\* They add requirements - Not everything in the Christian life is right and wrong - some are a matter of conscience before God.**

**8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”**

**\*They subtract from the word of God**

**Ignore the clear plain teachings and push personal preference**

**9 And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! (you are driving people away!!)**

**\*\* They put their agenda above everyone else**

**My way is the right way – and the only way. Unquestioned.**

**Notice Jesus says, “you let go of commands”, “set aside commands.” Understand -- There are commands in the Bible – aka. House Rules**

**1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: (we are led by Love to live differently)**

**Christianity is not the lawless wild west. There are commands in the Bible not meant to be a burden, but tools to connect w/ God. Problem is adding to or exchanging for unrealistic expectations. \*Problem w/ the Pharisees are that they pushed man-made rules – ignoring God-ordained commands.**

**Jesus then gives an example: Mark 7:10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ (civil command) 11 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) 12 then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. (the savings and possessions declared for God and excluded from helping parents – let them figure it out) 13 Thus you nullify the word of God (honor your parents) by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”**

**Dishonoring your parent’s w/ a loophole – excuse to be selfish.**

**Jesus is commenting on the 3 areas religious folks struggle with:**

**Hypocrisy – Following rules but missing the heart of God**

**Looking good outside – but inside your heart is far from God – the mask.**

**Legalism - Elevating convictions / practices to level of the Word of God**

**When your standards become standards for everyone’s righteousness**

**Movies, tv shows, cards, dancing, long hair, women wearing pants, tattoos, Harry Potter, alcohol, Halloween, Christmas trees, Easter bunnies, fantasy video games, dating limitations – you have every right to set standards – legalism is when you doubt others salvation based on your convictions = a Pharisees.**

**Liberties – Overriding the word of God with manmade allowances**

**Jesus is about to list sins that result in a sick heart – they are sins. Some use “that’s not my conviction” to allow for disobedience to God’s clear commands.**

**We are in opposition to God anytime we put our opinions and convictions ahead of God’s Word.**

**\*\* We can never base our morality on what is legal or in culture.**

**Can I smoke marijuana if it’s legal? What if I lived in Colorado? I heard one pastor get asked and answer – Hey can I smoke put now that it’s legal? He answered sure I am, right after I watch a lot of porn and commit adultery. Those have all been legal for some time – want a protistue? Move to Nevada.**

**As believers we can never base our morality what is legal or on culture.**

**Our motivation has got to be what has God spoken and how does this affect others.**

**Jesus then addresses the crowd - 14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.” 16 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."**

**Literally eating w/ dirty hands is not going to affect your walk with God, look deeper! Might not seem like a big deal to us, but that was straight up contradicting the leaders to their face!**

**Jesus then addresses his disciples – Mark 7:17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. (what did you mean?) 18 “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? 19 For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) (Food and food preparation is simply preference.)**

**Listen - dirty hands and diff foods do not affect your soul.**

**It’s not our hands that are dirty – it’s our heart that is dirty!**

**7:20 He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. 21 For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”**

**They are simply the symptoms of greater issue of the heart.**

**Jesus response - What comes out of us is reflective of what’s inside us**

**(Mark 7:9-23, 1 Sam 15:22-23, Is 1:11-17, Jer 7:22-23, Hos 6:6, Amos 5:21-27)**

**The things we do are a result of what’s happening in our heart. All the evil we see is an indication of the condition of the heart. Sin is the fruit of a sick heart. All of us are sick in heart.**

**Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. (What goes in spiritually & mentally does affect you spiritually.) For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. (proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:34)**

**Jesus and in James we are told – the mouth reflects the heart.**

**First gotcha – Jesus responds, “you’re a bunch of hypocrites, it is about the heart!” That gotcha is easy to understand…**

**Second one is harder to understand - he says, “you’re right.”**

**Mark 7:24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. (100 miles away) He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. 25 In fact, as soon as they heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. (if my girls were hurting, I would risk everything I had to get them help!) 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. (She was not Jewish and was unwelcome) She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.**

**Important, Jesus had come to preach to the Jewish nation first They were chosen to bring the messiah to the world. They were to get the message first (Rom 1:16) It was a promise. The gospel was intentionally & temporarily kept from gentiles.**

**And on top of that he was taking a much-needed break, she was not invited, barged in, not taking no, and would not leave.**

**Jesus says - 27 “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”**

**Is Jesus comparing her to a dog trying to take food off a table?**

**Jewish nation gets me first- they’ve waited thousands of years for me. Let the children of Israel east first - you’ll get me later.**

**(She does not back down - keeps nipping at the heels. Matt 15 says disciples tried to get rid of her) 28 But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”**

**Gotcha TWO – Even dogs get scraps!**

**But this is not really about feeding dogs leftovers**

**She is simply saying – I know you’re able. I’ll take anything!**

**Jesus anything. I know you can do it! desperate humble faith.**

**Yes, children get fed first, but dogs still get scraps. Can you toss me a scrap! Even something small will change my life!**

**I understand gentiles come later, but can you start with me!!)**

**Mark 7:29 Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” (Matt 15 says – you have great faith, your request has been granted) 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. (Interestingly, from this day forward in the gospels, Jesus preaches and does miracles with Jews and gentiles alike.)**

* **Jesus response - You’re right, your faith in me will change your life**

**Her simple faith brought a great miracle. She didn’t know a lot about Jesus, but she had faith in and trusted in what she knew.**

**This was 1st time in Mark Jesus is called lord. A gentile woman from a wicked area of the country – an outcast and alone. She gets who he is. He faith in Jesus changed her child’s life!!**

**Two gotchas – 1 got a rebuke and 1 got a miracle**

**Both happened at a meal.**

**1 was called a hypocrite – 1 referred to as a dog**

**1 the religious and 1 a heathen outcast**

**1 assumed they were close to God – 1 knew they were far from God**

**1 looked the part of someone God would bless but wasn’t –**

**the other didn’t look like someone God would bless but was.**

**The difference was faith. Jesus was looking for a heart that says, “I’m not here because I’m good, I’m here because you are God!**

**This chapter tells us - While others look at the external – Jesus sees the heart and can see if there is true faith.**

**The reality is - You really can’t judge a book by it’s cover**

**Your relationship with God is not determined by your ritual, religious heritage, social position, nationality, or knowledge – but your faith.**

**The day the gospel went to the dogs was the day it went to us.**

**We are the dogs begging at the table for scraps from Jesus.**

**Jesus does not just give scraps he gives everything.**