

MESSAGE NOTES

January 8, 2012

His Revelation, Our Hope

#12 The Reason for Hope

Mark 7:1-23

We cannot come to God without first being _____.

WHERE we need to be cleansed (*Mark 7:1-13*)

WHAT makes us unclean (*Mark 7:14-23*)

HOW (the only way) we can be cleansed (*Mark 7:6-8*)

*(Genesis 15:6; 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18; Luke 24:44; Hebrews 1:1-3;
John 3:16-18; 8:24; 1 John 1:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Philippians 3:9)*

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January 9—14, 2012

MONDAY

Read Mark 6:53-7:23. What do you notice about the events that take place in this passage? Where do these events take place? What actions by Jesus and His disciples set the stage for this passage? Who challenges Jesus? What is their concern and why?

TUESDAY

Read Mark 7:1-8. Why does Jesus respond to the concerns of the Pharisees and the scribes by quoting from Isaiah 29:13-14? How does Mark 7:8 help us to understand Jesus' concern with the scribes and Pharisees? In what ways was following the "tradition of the [Jewish] elders" dangerous?

WEDNESDAY

Read Mark 7:9-13. How did the teachings of the Pharisees and scribes (re: responsibility to parents) stand in opposition to God's commandments through Moses? What are some examples of current cultural traditions that also invalidate and/or replace God's word? What specific traditions from your background fall into this category?

THURSDAY

Read Mark 7:14-23. In Jesus' day, what was the primary Jewish understanding of cleanliness (i.e., what would cause a person to become unclean)? How does Jesus' teaching in vv. 18-23 correct the misunderstanding of the Pharisees, the scribes, and even His own disciples? In your own life, what are the ways that you overemphasize how you appear on the outside at the expense of your heart's purity?

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 51, which King David wrote in response to his sins against Bathsheba and Uriah (see 2 Samuel 11). Compare David's understanding of cleanliness with Jesus' instruction in Mark 7. Take time to offer Psalm 51 up as a prayer to the Lord.

WEEKEND

Why are we tempted, like Jesus' audience in Mark 7, to emphasize righteousness that is based on external behavior? According to Titus 3:4-7, how did God address this very problem? Now read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. How does this "love of Christ" (v. 14) control you? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ motivate you and empower you to invite others to experience Him?



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