Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The *Service* of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

G. **His Preeminence** in **Galilee** (6:1-9:50)

1. The ***Poor*** **Reception** in **Nazareth** (6:1-6a)
2. The ***Pairing*** and **Sending** of the **Twelve** (6:7-13)
3. The ***Plight*** of **John the Baptist** (6:14-29)
4. The ***Provision*** for the **5,000** (6:30-44)
5. The ***Power*** over the **Elements** (6:45-56)

6. The ***Pointed*** **Response** concerning **Impurity** (7:1-23)

a. A ***Reproof*** concerning **Cleansing** and **Tradition** (7:1-5)

7 The **Pharisees** and some of the **scribes** gathered around **Him (Jesus)**
when they had come from **Jerusalem,**

2 and had seen that some of **His disciples** were
eating their bread with **impure hands**, that is, **unwashed**.

3 (For the **Pharisees** and **all the Jews** do not eat unless they carefully
wash their hands, *thus* observing the **traditions** of the **elders**;

4 and *when they come* from the **market place**,
they do **not eat** unless they **cleanse themselves**; and there are *many* **other things** which they have **received** in order to **observe**,
such as the washing of **cups** and **pitchers** and **copper pots**.)

5 The **Pharisees** and the **scribes** asked **Him**,
"Why do **Your disciples not walk** according to the **tradition** of the **elders,**
but **eat** their bread with **impure hands**?"

b. A ***Reprimand*** from the **Messiah** (7:6-12)

1) ***Accusing*** **them** of **hypocrisy** (7:6-7)
2) ***Accusing*** **them** of **invalidating the Law** by their **tradition** (7:8-12)

[6] And **He** said to them, "Rightly did **Isaiah prophesy** of you **hypocrites**,
as it is **written:**

'THIS **PEOPLE HONORS ME** WITH THEIR **LIPS**,
BUT THEIR **HEART** IS **FAR AWAY** FROM **ME.**

[7] 'BUT ***IN VAIN*** DO THEY **WORSHIP ME**,
TEACHING AS ***DOCTRINES*** THE **PRECEPTS OF MEN**.'

[8] ***Neglecting*** the **commandment of God**, you hold to the **tradition of men**."

[9] **He** was also saying to them, "You are **experts** at **setting aside**
the ***commandment* of God** in order to **keep your *tradition*.**

[10] For **Moses** said, '**HONOR** YOUR **FATHER** AND YOUR **MOTHER**'; and,
'**HE** WHO **SPEAKS EVIL** OF **FATHER** OR **MOTHER**, IS TO BE PUT TO **DEATH**';

[11] but **you say,** 'If a man says to *his* **father** or *his* **mother**, whatever I
have that would **help you** is **Corban** (that is to say, **given *to God***),'

[12] you **no longer permit him** to **do anything** for *his* **father** or *his* **mother;**
[13] *thus* **invalidating** the **word of God** by your **tradition** which you have **handed down**;
and you **do many things** such as that."

c. A ***Recognition*** of the **True Source** of **Defilement** (7:14-23)

[14] After **He called** the **crowd** to **Him** again, **He** *began* saying to them,
"**Listen** to **Me**, all of you, and ***understand***:

[15] there is **nothing outside** the **man** which can **defile him** if it goes **into him**;
but the things which **proceed out** of the **man** are what **defile the man**.

[16]["If anyone has **ears to hear**, let him **hear**."]

[17] When **He** had left the crowd *and* entered the **house,**
His disciples *questioned* Him about the **parable.**

[18] And **He** said to them, "Are you so **lacking** in **understanding** also?
Do you not understand that whatever goes **into the man**
from **outside cannot *defile* him**,

[19] because it does **not go** *into* **his heart**, but *into* **his stomach**, and is **eliminated**?"
(*Thus **He*** declared **all foods clean**.)

[20] And **He** was saying,
"That which **proceeds out** of the **man**, that is what ***defiles* the man**.

[21] For from ***within,*** out of the **heart of men**, proceed the **evil thoughts**,
fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, [22] **deeds** of **coveting** *and* **wickedness,**

as well as **deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride** *and* **foolishness.**

[23] **All** these **evil things** proceed **from within** and ***defile*** **the man**."

Message Summary

A. The ***Reproof*** by the **Pharisees**→(7:1-5)

Our chapter begins with the gathering of **Pharisees** and **scribes** from **Jerusalem**. They had **observed** that some of **Jesus' disciples** had **eaten** their **bread** with **"impure"** and **unwashed hands** (7:1-2). **Mark,** who had written his **gospel** to a primarily **Gentile audience**, explained how that the **Pharisees** and the **Jews** did not eat until they had **"carefully" washed** their **hands**, **themselves,** and various **cooking utensils** according to the **"traditions"** of the **elders** (7:3-4). The **Pharisees** and **scribes** then **confronted Jesus** as to **why *His* disciples ate** with **"impure hands (7:5)."**

It's not that the **disciples** did ***not*** **wash** before they **ate**. The **Pharisees' complaint** was that they did ***not*** **wash according** to the **"traditions"** of the **elders,** and were **"ceremonially impure"** as a result. These **traditions** were an **unwritten** body of **commands** and **teachings,** that were **believed** to have been ***orally*** **delivered** by **God** to **Moses,** and then ***orally*** **transmitted** to the **elders** and then honored **rabbis** of the **past**. **Rabbinical Judaism**, **then** and **today**, embraces both the ***written*** **Law** (**Mosaic Law**), and this ***Oral*** **Law** (the **Talmud**) as **inspired by God,** and **laws** to be followed. **Jesus** declared that that these **"traditions"** were the **traditions of men**, and did **not** have the **authority** of the **written Law of God** (7:8).

B. The ***Response*** by the **Messiah**→(7:6-12)

Jesus strongly responded to the **accusations** of the **Pharisees** in ***two*** **ways**. ***First*****, He accuses them** of **hypocrisy**, and that **they** were the **ones** spoken of by **Isaiah** the **prophet** when he proclaimed:

'THIS **PEOPLE HONORS ME** WITH THEIR ***LIPS***,
BUT THEIR **HEART** IS **FAR AWAY** FROM **ME**.

' BUT **IN *VAIN*** DO THEY **WORSHIP ME**,
TEACHING AS ***DOCTRINES*** THE **PRECEPTS OF MEN**.' (7:6-7) (Isaiah 29:13)

Second, **He accused** them of being **"experts"** at **setting aside** the **commandment of God** in order to **follow** their **tradition** (7:7:9). According to their **tradition**, a man could **declare** a ***vow*** that **resources** that he **owned** were **Corban**, which meant that they were "**devoted to God,**" and now a part of the **Temple treasury**.

So if a **son** declared that the **resources** needed to **support** his **aging parents** were now **"Corban,"** then according to **scribal tradition**, he was **exempt** from his

greater **responsibility** of **caring for**, and **"honoring"** them as **commanded** by the **Law** (7:11-13).

For **Moses** said, '**HONOR** YOUR **FATHER** AND YOUR **MOTHER**'; (7:10)

C. The ***Root*** and **Source** of **Defilement** (7:14-23)

Having responded to the **reproof** of the **Pharisees** and **scribes**, **Jesus** then called the **crowd** to **Him** and said:

"...there is **nothing outside** the **man** which can **defile him** if it goes ***into him***;
but the **things** which **proceed out** of the **man** are what **defile** the man (7:15)."

When the **disciples** later **questioned Him** about this **parable**, the **Messiah** declared that what a **man eats** does **not go** into **his heart**, but into his **stomach**. Afterward, that which **is waste** is ***eliminated*** (7:18-19). However, that which comes **out** of a man is what **defiles him**. For from **within**, from out of the **heart of man**, proceed **evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting** and **wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness**...(7:20-22).

All these **evil things proceed** from **within** and **defile** the **man** (7:23)."

Personal Application
Protecting our **"Hearts"** from **Defilement**
(Biblical Exhortations)

Watch over your **heart** with **all diligence**,
For ***from it*** *flow* the **springs of life**. (Proverbs 4:23)

"As a **corrupt fountain** sends forth **corrupt streams**,
so does a **corrupt heart** send forth **corrupt reasonings**, **corrupt appetites**
and **passions**, and all the **wicked words** and **actions** that **come** from **them.**"
(Matthew Henry)

Your word I have **treasured** in **my heart**,
That I may **not sin against You**. (Psalm 119:11)

Finally, brethren, whatever is ***true***, whatever is ***honorable***,
whatever is ***right***, whatever is ***pure***, whatever is ***lovel***y, whatever is of ***good repute,***
if there is any ***excellence*** and if anything worthy of ***praise,*** **dwell** on **these things**.
(Ephesians 4:8)

For this reason **I bow my knees** before **the Father**,
from whom **every family** in **heaven** and on **earth** derives **its name**,
that **He** would **grant you,** according to the riches of **His glory**,
to be ***strengthened*** with **power** through **His Spirit** in the **inner man,**
(Ephesians 3:14-16)