

The background is a piece of aged, textured paper with a mottled, light brown and beige color scheme. The paper has a rough, deckled edge. Overlaid on the lower half of the paper is a crown of thorns, made of dark brown, sharp, and jagged branches. The text is centered on the paper.

*Traditions &
Commandments*

7
Mark
& 8

Day

1

1. Read Mark 7-8 before starting this study guide. Pray asking the Lord to bless your time in his word. Think of some things that are often described as “pure.” I would imagine water was somewhere in your top three answers. Science has advanced to the point we realize that it is not enough for it to look like clear water but that it must be free of things our eye cannot see. We want our water to be pure and free of contaminants. This week we will be looking at the importance of purity of heart.

2. In Mark 6 we saw Jesus was near Gennesaret, in Galilee. Now in Mark 7, who do we see coming to find Jesus?

Their journey was approximately 70 miles from Jerusalem to Galilee.

3. These men pride themselves on keeping not merely the law of Moses but some 600+ laws and regulations they have added to the law of Moses. One might think if a group of highly religious men were to come a great distance to hear someone who is obviously doing the miraculous works of God, they would ask him some very deep and meaningful questions. What is the first thing they question Jesus about?
4. It has been said that we will most often find what we are looking for. In Mark 2 we saw the Pharisees were critical of who Jesus was eating with at Matthew’s house. In Mark 3 the Pharisees linked up with the Herodians against Jesus to find a way to kill him. What do you believe these Pharisees and teachers of the law were looking for by coming this great distance from Jerusalem to Galilee?
5. Jesus very clearly called them out in Mark 7:6-9. What four areas of error did Jesus point out?
 - a. Mark 7:6
 - b. Mark 7:7
 - c. Mark 7:8
 - d. Mark 7:9
6. I can almost imagine the dropped jaw look on the Pharisees faces when Jesus said these things. No one ever spoke to the Pharisees and religious leaders like this, even if they thought it. Why is Jesus speaking so critically to these men? What was their job? What were they supposed to be doing for the people?
7. This is a good place for us to pause and ask ourselves a few questions. Who am I called to lead? What am I focusing on as a leader? Is my Lord pleased with the way I am leading?
8. Jesus gives them an example of exactly the type of thing to which he is referring, Corban. The Easton Bible Dictionary states, Jesus hated this practice of the Pharisees, as their traditions in this area nullified God’s commandment that children should honor their parents. Their man-made teaching gave people an excuse for not helping their father or mother. It also, at the same time, offered them the opportunity to use such designated good for their own selfish use. Read Mark 7:10-13, how did this tradition nullify God’s commandment?

Day

2

9. Mark 7:14-23, Jesus explains what it is that defiles a person. The word translated “defile” is the Greek word Koinoo, it means to make common, to make unclean, to profane or pollute. In your own words explain the teaching of these verses.

10. What are the evil thoughts mentioned by Jesus in verses 20-23 that defile a person?

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| a. | e. | i. |
| b. | f. | j. |
| c. | g. | k. |
| d. | h. | l. |

11. Jesus leaves the area of Galilee and heads for the coast, to the area of Tyre. The text tells us that Jesus entered a house very quickly so the word would not get out that he was in their city. But one lady heard the news that Jesus was near, what did she want Jesus to do for her?

What did she say that showed great faith, humility, and wisdom?

12. Look at a good map book and locate the places mentioned in this chapter. (Gennesaret, Tyre, Sidon, the area of Galilee, the area of Decapolis) Jesus is doing a lot of walking back and forth across the countryside of Israel. Why do you believe he didn't just go from one town to the next?

Out of seemingly nowhere what happens every time Jesus is in an area?

13. In Mark 7:31, Jesus leaves Tyre and went through Sidon then headed back down to the Sea of Galilee to the region of the Decapolis. Deca means ten and Polis means city, Decapolis is the area of ten cities. Who did Jesus meet while in Decapolis?

14. What did Jesus do for this man?

15. What instructions did he give the man?

16. The Pharisees and religious leaders may have wanted to trap Jesus but what did Mark 7:37 say the people thought of Jesus?

Day 3

17. In Mark 8 we see a large crowd has followed Jesus now for many days. What is the need mentioned in verses 1-8?

18. Jesus has spent several days feeding their soul. But that is not their only need. Who was the one to mention the need of the people? What does the text say Jesus felt for these people?

Define the word, it is the word splanchnizomai in the Greek.

19. What provisions were found that day?
How many people did the scripture mention at the meal?

20. According to verse 8, what was the result of this massive outdoor meal?

21. As is often the case for Jesus' day to day ministry, things are going very well and then the Pharisees show up. Read Matthew 16:1-4 to go along with Mark 8:11. Why had the Pharisees come to Jesus? What did they want him to do?
22. Mark states Jesus' reply to them asking for a sign. But Matthew 16 gives even more details. What is the only sign they will be given? What event did this foretell?
23. Jesus and his disciples get back into the boat to head across to visit Bethsaida again. While Jesus has them alone, he tries to help his disciples see the trouble that is all around them. Jesus wants to warn them to be on guard. What or who was he warning them about?
24. Did they understand Jesus' warning?
25. Jesus is never worried about provisions; his Father would provide for every need. What two events had the disciples witnessed first-hand that should have settled this truth in their hearts? (Mark 6:34-42 and 8:2-8)
26. Has your time in the gospel of Mark calmed your fears and anxiety concerning the needs in your life? Please describe how it has calmed your fears.

Day

4

27. Jesus warns the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod. The word yeast is a translation of the Greek word *Zume* which is defined as leaven. It is a metaphor of mental and moral corruption; a particular habit, activity, or interest that is long-established, deep-rooted, and unlikely to change that leads to moral corruption and tends to infect others.
In the Bible when we read about leaven, it is either referring to the substance used in cooking that produces fermentation in dough or it is referring to sin that enters the heart and corrupts the person. Galatians 5:9 *"A little leaven leavens the whole lump."* Paraphrase what Jesus is trying to teach the disciples, and all who would follow Jesus.
28. Jesus and his disciples arrive once again at Bethsaida. Who is Jesus introduced to very quickly after his arrival?
What was the need?
29. Jesus touched the man and he received partial vision. Then Jesus touched his eyes again and the man could see. I do not believe this was too hard for Jesus, but that Jesus is still teaching his disciples so that when he is not with them, they will not be confused if a healing comes in stages. Have you ever prayed for a healing and experienced a partial healing and then later complete restoration?
Did you give God the glory for this miracle of healing?
30. In these next verses, Mark 8:27-30, Jesus is making it perfectly clear who he is and what is his purpose. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and Luke 9:18-20 to glean further details.
What is the first question Jesus puts to the disciples? What was their answer?
What was the second question Jesus asked that day?
Who was the spokesman for the group, and what did he say?
31. Once a person has believed in their heart that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Redeemer who paid our ransom and they transfer their trust to him, what is required of them?
(Read Romans 10:9-10 and 12:1 before writing your answer)

32. In Mark 2:19-20 we read a veiled mention of Jesus death. But in Mark 8:31 it is very clear what Jesus is saying to his followers. What future events did Jesus tell them would happen?

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33. In Mark 8:32, Peter declares his allegiance and his desire to see Jesus' kingdom thrive. Peter may have meant well but he did not think it through before speaking. It is unwise to attempt to correct the Lord Jesus when he is speaking. Jesus wants our minds eternally focused, not focused on the things of this world. That does not mean we do not enjoy the world around us or the people we love, we just don't place them above God. Have you settled it in your heart that God's ways are always right and best? (I agree it is a struggle to remember this.)

What are some ways a true follower of Christ can keep themselves grounded on things of eternal purpose?

34. Peter had just declared in three gospels "You are the Christ the Son of God" and "You are the Messiah" and "The Christ of God." Now, he is correcting and rebuking Jesus, saying "Never, Lord!" "This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22) We must not lose our eternal perspective even to declare our love for Jesus. What are your thoughts as you contemplated these verses from Matthew 16, Mark 8, and Luke 9? How would you answer Jesus question, "Who do you say I am?"

Day

5

35. Jesus turns his attention to the crowd and his disciples and teaches once again. What does Jesus say is required of those who would follow him?

- a.
- b.
- c.

36. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and Mark 8:38; what is Jesus clear teaching in these verses? Paraphrase these verses in your own words.

37. To deny oneself does not mean that we think nothing of ourselves. It is an expression of absolute surrender. What would that look like in your life to be absolutely surrendered to Jesus?

38. What does it mean to "take up your cross"? What must we be willing to do?

39. What does it mean to "follow Jesus"?

40. Mark 8:36 Jesus asked the question, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and forfeit their soul?" Is Jesus against us being successful in this life? Is he saying being prosperous in a bad thing?

41. What are you taking away from all you have seen in Mark 7 and Mark 8?

