

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 7:1–23

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

Your relationship with God works from the inside out, not the outside in.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 7:1–23

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, **2** they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. **3** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, **4** and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) **5** And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! **10** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ **11** But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)— **12** then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, **13** thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” **17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. **21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- How do religious hypocrites tend to make you feel? Why?
- What was the ultimate point of the Old Testament purity laws and sacrificial system? Read Leviticus 19:1–2 for your answer.

- How did the religious leaders of Jesus' day confuse and mistake the point of the purity laws and sacrificial system?
- Why do more rules actually not help us? What do we need instead?
- Look at Mark 7:9–13. How were the religious leaders actually breaking God's Law. Compare what they were doing with the commandment in Exodus 20:12.
- Why do we need new hearts in order to obey God's law?
- In Mark 7:14–23 we see that the religious leaders were concerned with the appearance of religion. Why is this dangerous?
- What is the point Jesus is making in Mark 7:20–23?
- Why does God desire holiness over religious performance?
- Any of us can slide into religious performance like the religious leaders. How do we protect our hearts from that danger and keep our hearts and lives holy?