

## Cultural Traditions and Kingdom Realities

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### **Mark 7:1-37**

**7** Now there gathered together to [Jesus] the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> For they had seen that some of His disciples ate with common hands, that is, unwashed [with hands defiled and unhallowed, because they had not given them a ceremonial washing]— <sup>3</sup> For the Pharisees and all of the Jews do not eat unless [merely for ceremonial reasons] they wash their hands [diligently up to the elbow] with clenched fist, adhering [carefully and faithfully] to the tradition of [practices and customs handed down to them by] their forefathers [to be observed]. <sup>4</sup> And [when they come] from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions [oral, man-made laws handed down to them, which they observe faithfully and diligently, such as], the washing of cups and wooden pitchers and widemouthed jugs and utensils of copper and beds— <sup>5</sup> And the Pharisees and scribes kept asking [Jesus], Why do Your disciples not order their way of living according to the tradition handed down by the forefathers [to be observed], but eat with hands unwashed and ceremonially not purified?

<sup>6</sup> But He said to them, Excellently and truly [so that there will be no room for blame] did Isaiah prophesy of you, the pretenders and hypocrites, as it stands written: These people [constantly] honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far distant from Me.

<sup>7</sup> In vain (fruitlessly and without profit) do they worship Me, ordering and teaching [to be obeyed] as doctrines the commandments and precepts of men. <sup>8</sup> You disregard and give up and ask to depart from you the commandment of God and cling to the tradition of men [keeping it carefully and faithfully]. <sup>9</sup> And He said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting [thus thwarting and nullifying and doing away with] the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition (your own human regulations)! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, Honor (revere with tenderness of feeling and deference) your father and your mother, and, He who

***curses or reviles or speaks evil of or abuses or treats improperly his father or mother, let him surely die.***

***<sup>11</sup> But [as for you] you say, A man is exempt if he tells [his] father or [his] mother, What you would otherwise have gained from me [everything I have that would have been of use to you] is Corban, that is, is a gift [already given as an offering to God], <sup>12</sup> Then you no longer are permitting him to do anything for [his] father or mother [but are letting him off from helping them]. <sup>13</sup> Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on. And many things of this kind you are doing. Mark 7:1-13 AMPC***

***15 Then some Pharisees and scribes \*came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, <sup>2</sup> "Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." <sup>3</sup> And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? Matthew 15:1-3 NASB***

- ***This is similar to the response Jesus gave to the Sadducees...***

***<sup>7</sup> As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. <sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Acts 23:7-8 NASB***

***But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29 NASB***

- ***The Pharisees and scribes thought the disciples were unhygienic and anti-Jewish because they weren't keeping with the traditions of the Elders.***
  - ***The traditions of the Elders or fathers was founded on the premise that Jewish people were the lone 'clean' people in the world and the only people whose worship was acceptable to God.***

- **All other cultures were comprised of people who defiled themselves daily.**
- **These traditions were imposed after the Babylonian captivity and passed down orally from generation to generation...these traditions were not the Scriptures.**
- **Jesus and the twelve violated all these traditions and cultural norms by touching, healing, delivering, and dining with the 'unclean people.'**
- **Corban...means given or dedicated to God...anything 'dedicated to God' excluded it from any other claim.**
- **A wealthy man could dedicate his riches to God... 'Corban'...thus he could ignore the Biblical directions that instruct him to financially take care of his elderly parents.**
- **The traditions of the Elders had created ways to subvert the law and cancel the requirements of the Scriptures...subverting the Scriptures while pretending to honor God.**

**<sup>14</sup> And He called the people to [Him] again and said to them, Listen to Me, all of you, and understand [what I say]. <sup>15</sup> There is not [even] one thing outside a man which by going into him can pollute and defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him and make him unhallowed and unclean. <sup>16</sup> If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening [and let him perceive and comprehend by hearing]. <sup>17</sup> And when He had left the crowd and had gone into the house, His disciples began asking Him about the parable.**

**<sup>18</sup> And He said to them, Then are you also unintelligent and dull and without understanding? Do you not discern and see that whatever goes into a man from the outside cannot make him unhallowed or unclean, <sup>19</sup> Since it does not reach and enter his heart but [only his] digestive tract, and so passes on [into the place designed to receive waste]? Thus He was making and declaring all foods [ceremonially] clean [that is, abolishing the ceremonial distinctions of the Levitical Law]. <sup>20</sup> And He said, What comes out of a man is what makes a man unclean and renders [him] unhallowed. <sup>21</sup> For from within, [that is] out of the hearts of men, come base and wicked**

**thoughts, sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> Coveting (a greedy desire to have more wealth), dangerous and destructive wickedness, deceit; unrestrained (indecent) conduct; an evil eye (envy), slander (evil speaking, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness), pride (the sin of an uplifted heart against God and man), foolishness (folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness). <sup>23</sup> All these evil [purposes and desires] come from within, and they make the man unclean and render him unhallowed. Mark 7:14-23 AMPC**

- **Jesus gathers the crowd and speaks to them about heart issues...**
  - **He who has ears to hear...let him hear and understand.**
  - **He says, "Whatever goes into a man from the outside is not what defiles him (so He is declaring that all food is ceremonially clean).**
- **Life is about 'heart issues.'**
  - **Heart Conditions:**
    - **Base and wicked thoughts**
    - **Sexual immorality**
    - **Stealing**
    - **Murder**
    - **Adultery**
    - **Coveting**
    - **Destructive wickedness**
    - **Unrestrained indecent conduct**
    - **An evil-eye – envy**
    - **Malicious – misrepresentation**
    - **Abusiveness**
    - **Pride (see v22)**
    - **Foolishness – lack of sense**
    - **Thoughtlessness**

**<sup>24</sup> Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know of it; yet He could not escape notice. <sup>25</sup> But after hearing of Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> And He was saying to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> But she answered and said to Him, "Yes,**

**Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> And He said to her, "Because of this answer go; the demon has gone out of your daughter." <sup>30</sup> And going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, the demon having left.**

**<sup>31</sup> Again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hand on him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; <sup>34</sup> and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly. <sup>36</sup> And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. <sup>37</sup> They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Mark 7:24-37 NASB**

- **Jesus and the disciples go to the region of Tyre and Sidon, which has a larger gentile population than their previous stops.**
  - **Jesus goes into a house (Jewish or gentile, it doesn't say).**
  - **He was looking for some privacy but that was not going to happen.**
  - **He is met by a Syrophoenician woman (a gentile) whose daughter was demonized.**
  - **She implored Him consistently to heal her daughter.**
  - **Jesus spoke to her in a 'parable' and the woman answered Him in a 'parable' – she 'spoke' His language.**
  - **The girl is instantly freed and well.**
  - **The woman understood that the 'crumbs' offered by Jesus were all she needed. (He was sent to the Jews first and then the gentiles).**
- **Jesus goes to Sidon and the Decapolis area.**
  - **He finds a deaf man with a speech impediment.**
  - **Jesus takes the man 'away' from the crowd to minister to him.**
  - **He put His fingers in the man's ears and put His saliva on the man's tongue...He orders the man, "Be opened!" (A glance to heaven and a 'holy sign' and the man is healed!)**

- ***Now Jesus tells the healed man and the crowd not to tell anyone that this happened.***
- ***Got to tell somebody! (2<sup>nd</sup> verse same as the 1<sup>st</sup>)***
- ***The crowd is astonished...Jesus even makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak!***