

Series: Starting Line

February 18, 2024

Message: Working From The Inside Out

Mark 7:1-23 | Romans 8:14-16; 14:1-7 | Proverbs 30:5-6 | Colossians 2:20-23
Micah 6:6-8 | Isaiah 1:11-20 | John 1:11-13; 14-15

Why we like to add to what God says:

- Working on the outside gives us control... Working on the inside requires change.
- The Pharisees turned helpful spiritual *tools* into rigid religious *rules*.
- God doesn't want our *religion* – He wants a *relationship*.

Man's Traditions

Outward Forms – Bondage

Frivolous Rules

Outward Piety

Neglect replaces the Word of God

God's Truth

Inward Faith – Liberty

Fundamental Principles

True Inward Holiness

Exalts the Word of God.

My response: In light of what I have learned today, what do I need to do to obey God?

Life Group Questions

Digging Deeper – Mark 7.

The Pharisees often placed their cultural teachings and man-made rules on equal footing with the teachings of the Bible. Jesus responded to this practice in Mark 7:1-23. Read it and then answer the questions below:

What did Jesus say are some of the results of elevating tradition and man-made rules to the level of the Bible?

As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed some tradition or man-made rule to have as much authority as the Bible? How did you realize this? What did you do?

Re-read Mark 7:6-13.

What specific complaints did Jesus raise against the Pharisees' approach to tradition?

What sorts of traditions do we observe today that get in the way of really honoring God?

Re-read Mark 7:14-23.

How does Jesus' view of becoming "unclean" differ from that of the Pharisees?

In what ways do we sometimes emphasize appearance over internal reality?

Why is the condition of our heart so important to our actions?

Read Psalm 51:10.

How can you have a clean heart?