



## Bible Reading Group

# The gospel of Mark

## Chapter 7

### **The tradition of the elders (Mark 7:1-13)**

- 1 What are Pharisees?
- 2 What are teachers of the law?
- 3 Where was Jesus at this time?
- 4 Can you find any information in the law of Moses about the washing of hands?
- 5 What sort of washing is verse two talking about?
- 6 Were the traditions of the elders the same as the law of Moses?
- 7 Where would we find out about the “many other traditions” of the elders?
- 8 Are there traditions today which make the Word of God of no effect?
- 9 Are there parallel examples in church traditions today which compare unfavourably with Bible principles and commands?
- 10 What is the meaning of the word “defile”?
- 11 Why do you think the Pharisees and the scribes were interested in what Jesus’ disciples were doing?
- 12 Jesus called the Pharisees and scribes “hypocrites”. What did he mean?
- 13 How do the verses from Isaiah apply to these teachers?
- 14 Can we be guilty of the same sort of hypocrisy in our worship of God?
- 15 Using cross-references, find the two quotes of Moses in verse ten.
- 16 In what way were these two commands of Moses changed into traditions of men?
- 17 See if you can find any other traditions that were made — Jesus said there were many.

**What defiles a man (Mark 7:14–23)**

- 18 Why did Jesus say to listen *and* understand him?
- 19 What does Jesus mean when he says that nothing outside a man can make him unclean? Does this mean we don't ever need to wash our hands?
- 20 What things can come out of us which make us unclean?
- 21 What house may Jesus have entered?
- 22 What is a parable?
- 23 Why did Jesus ask if the disciples were so dull when they didn't know what this parable meant?
- 24 What is the difference between the things that go into the stomach and those that enter the heart?
- 25 Jesus declared all foods clean. Can you find any other New Testament passages about this?
- 26 Define all the words that Jesus uses to describe the evil that comes out of a man's heart.
- 27 How did these things get into the hearts of human beings in the first place? Do we know what all the words actually mean?
- 28 When you are alone consider whether any of these evils are in your heart. Be very honest with yourself. God can forgive a repentant sinner.

**The faith of a Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:24–30)**

- 29 Find Tyre on a map. Why do you think Jesus went there? Was this a place that he usually went to?
- 30 Why didn't Jesus want anyone to know where he was?
- 31 Why do you think he couldn't keep his presence there a secret?
- 32 How do you think the Syrophenician woman heard he was there?
- 33 What was wrong with her daughter?
- 34 Why did the woman fall at Jesus feet?

- 35 Where is Syrian Phoenicia?
- 36 What was the importance of the fact that this woman was a Greek? (hint: read Matthew 15:23–24)
- 37 What does the parable of children and dogs mean?
- 38 Did dogs eat under the table in those days?
- 39 What did the woman show in the way she answered? (see Matthew 15:28)

### **The healing of a deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31–37)**

- 40 Follow Jesus' travels on a map. Where was the Decapolis?
- 41 When had Jesus previously gone to the region of the Decapolis?
- 42 What does "Decapolis" mean?
- 43 Are there other examples of Jesus placing his hand on the sick to heal them?
- 44 Why did Jesus take the man away from the crowd to heal him?
- 45 Why did Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears and spit and touch the man's tongue?
- 46 Why did Jesus sigh a deep sigh?
- 47 What language is "Ephphatha"? Why is it written like this with a translation?
- 48 Why did Jesus command them not to tell anyone?
- 49 Were the people determined to disobey Jesus when they told others about this miracle?
- 50 Why were the people overwhelmed with amazement? Were they especially surprised at the miracle of healing the deaf and mute?
- 51 The people said that Jesus had done everything well. Is that still true today?