

The Heart of the Matter Mark 7:1-23

Jesus is peeling back the layers of tradition Mark 7:1-13

Mark 7:8 – *“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”*

- Some background on the traditions of men (v.1-7)

“You are not to boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.” (Exodus 23:19)

- Adventures in missing the point (v.8-13)
 - There was hypocrisy. Legalism outwardly mimics spirituality, so these people looked religious and spiritual because they lived a legalistic lifestyle.
 - Sometimes keeping a tradition may mean passively ignoring, or breaking, a divine commandment.

The “Corban” loophole: “a gift dedicated to God”

Jesus is peeling back the layers of our hearts Mark 7:14-23

Mark 7:15-16 – *“Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.”*

- Bringing clarity to the outside and inside (v.14-16)

“Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” But He answered and said,

(1) “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted.

The Pharisees were plants not planted by God and must be uprooted.

(2) Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.

They were blind guides leading the blind and should be ignored.

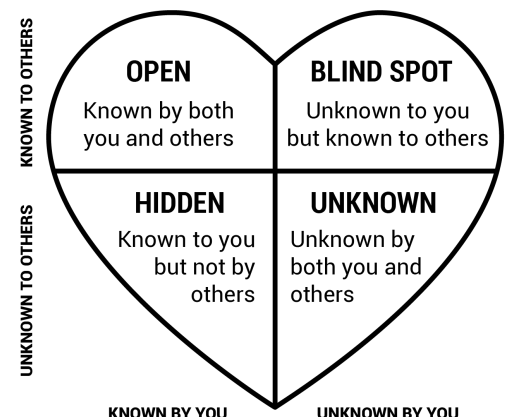
(3) And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” (Matthew 15:12-14)

Both the blind guides and those led by them would fall into the pit of destruction.

- Understanding the anatomy of our hearts (v.17-23)

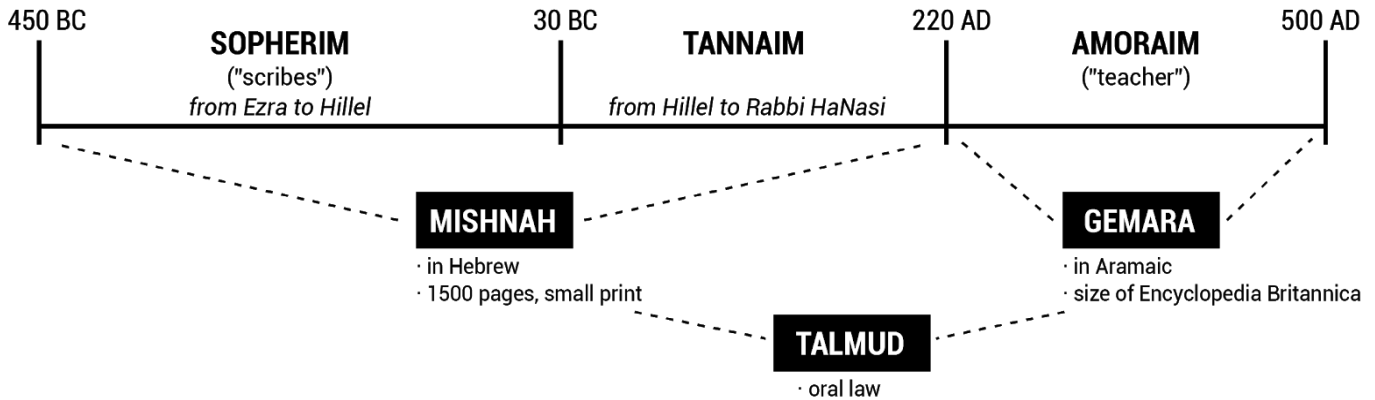
“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.” (Mark 7:21-22)

“Search me, O God, and **know my heart**; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” (Psalm 139:23-24)



Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion: "The Tradition of the Elders"

THREE SCHOOLS OF SCRIBES & PHARISEES



This standoff between the Pharisees and Jesus as its roots in the distinction between the "oral law" and the "written law," or the "Torah." The Pharisees not only accepted the oral law along with the Torah, but in the thinking of many, it superseded the authority of the Torah. The oral law, began to emerge during the Babylonian Captivity that was brought upon the Jewish people. It was explained as divine punishment for neglecting the law, and many during this period earnestly turned to the law. The creation of the oral law was based out of a fear of breaking the written law.

Detailed commentaries on the law appeared in highly specific restrictions that were designed to "build a hedge" around the Torah and guard against any possible violation of the Torah by ignorance or accident. It was an evolution of traditions that would continue to grow, and would achieve written form as the "Mishnah" in the third century. During the time of Jesus the oral law came to be revered so highly that it was said to go back to Moses himself and to have been transmitted over the centuries orally, paralleling the written law that also derived from him. This is exactly what the Pharisees believed, and also it was these "traditions" that Jesus condemned.

The call of Jesus to these first century Pharisees was to inspect their hearts, obey God's written Law and not their own man-made traditions. John 14:21 says, "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

- Where are we missing the point today as we follow Jesus?
- Looking at the four chambers of the heart, what are the areas of your heart that you need to pay attention to?

Next Steps:

JOIN US FOR VBS! At Shipwrecked VBS (Vacation Bible School), from July 23–27 at 9:00 am–12:30 pm, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

- **Register for VBS:** Calvary's VBS is open to kids entering grades 1 through 6 (in the fall of 2018). And best of all, it's all FREE! Register your kids—and invite other families to do so too—at calvarylife.org/vbs
- **Volunteer at VBS:** It's rare to be able to offer such a great VBS for free. One distinction of Calvary's VBS is that it has always been free and always will be, but that is only because of generous people like you. Register to volunteer at calvarylife.org/vbs
- **Donate to VBS:** Can't be a VBS volunteer but still want to help? You can help by donating supplies. With a new, fun craft and snack every day of VBS, we'll need lots of help in this area. If you have picked up a snack tag, please bring in your items either next Sunday or the front office during the week. Didn't grab a tag? We can always use gift cards to Smart & Final, Costco, and Target too. Learn more at calvarylife.org/vbs