

LIFE OF A SERVANT**Lip Service or Heart Service****Mark 7:1–23**

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” Mark 7:6b

Day 1: Read Mark 7:1–5.

1. Review Mark 2:6–7, 16–17, 24, and Mark 3:2, 5–6, and 22.
 - a. Based on what has already transpired in Mark, describe the attitude of the Pharisees and teachers of the law toward Jesus.
 - b. Why do you think they have made this special trip from Jerusalem?
2. What sparks the discussion that begins in verse 5?

Day 2: Read Mark 7:1–13.

During the centuries between the Old and New Testaments, the Jewish rabbis began to make detailed rules and regulations that governed daily life. These were interpretations and applications of the Law of Moses, handed down from one generation to the next. In Jesus’ day this “tradition of the elders” was in oral form. (from NIV note on Matthew 15:2)

3. Do the Pharisees complain because the disciples violate God’s law or because they violate the “tradition of the elders”?
4. Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law so concerned with upholding the tradition of the elders?
5. What standards, based on tradition, do you use to classify people as acceptable or not acceptable? In this chapter we see what Jesus thinks of the tradition of the elders. What would he think of your traditions?

Day 3: Read Mark 7:6–13.

6. What are the implications of the Pharisees’ attitude toward uncleanness? (See verses 6 and 7.)

7. How does Jesus illustrate the point he makes in verses 6–8?
8. What phrases does Jesus use in verses 8, 9, and 13 to describe what the Pharisees have done to God’s word?
9. Contrast this with the Pharisees’ view of themselves.

Day 4: Read Mark 7:14–23.

10. In verse 14, to whom does Jesus turn his attention? What two imperatives does he use to stress the importance of what he is about to say?
11. What effect has the hypocrisy of the Pharisees had on this group? (Mt. 9:36; Lk. 11:46)
12. Until very recently the disciples were themselves part of the “crowd.” How has the hypocrisy of the Pharisees affected them? (vss. 17–18)

Day 5: Read Mark 7:14–23.

13. Review verses 1–5. What do the religious leaders teach is the cause of uncleanness? And, according to the “tradition of the elders” how can someone be made clean?
14. According to Jesus, what is the root cause of uncleanness? (See Jer. 17:9.)
15. What kinds of things does Jesus say come out of people that make them unclean?
16. What is the remedy for uncleanness? (Ps. 51:7, 10; 1 Cor. 6:9–11)