


5. What was the cleanliness the Pharisees were missing? (Psalm 51:2; Psalm 24:3–4; 1 John 1:9)

6. The Pharisees elevated their human traditions above God's law.
 - a. Can you think of ways that we modern Christians also fall into this trap?
 - b. What are some things you can do to guard against this? (Psalm 119:11; Romans 12:2; Colossians 2:8)

Read Mark 7:9–13.

7. Jesus digs deeper in rebuking the Pharisees and teachers of the law.
 - a. What phrases does Jesus use to describe what they have done to God's word? (vv. 9, 13)
 - b. Whom does Jesus quote in his rebuke? (v. 10;  * Exodus 20:12; 21:17)
 - c. Given that the Pharisees and teachers of the law are the "experts" in Mosaic law, how do you think they are reacting to his accusations (and in public, no less)?

The word "Corban" only appears once in the Bible, in this passage. But the concept comes from the Old Testament and means "Dedicated to God." "Jewish tradition allowed that funds originally dedicated to the care of parents could be declared **Corban**..., meaning that the person would no longer be required to do anything **for** ... **father or mother**. These funds could now be given to the temple, if so desired. Such human traditions thus allow room for the depravity of the human heart, directly opposing the Law of Moses which so often serves to protect the weak and helpless, in this case, parents in their feeble old age. ...The 'Corban' tradition is an example... of disregarding and rejecting the more important aspects of the Mosaic law.²


8. In their meticulous zeal, the Pharisees missed the very foundation of the law they were trying to follow. What were they missing? (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:34–40; Galatians 5:6)

Read Mark 7:14–23.

9. Jesus now turns his attention to the crowd. What does he exhort them to do? (v. 14)

10. Explain in your own words how Jesus' statement in verse 15 exposes the fallacy in the Pharisees' teachings.

11. Jesus' own disciples appear to be having trouble grasping the truth of his teaching (v. 17). Why do you think this is? (Hint, remember there was no New Testament at that time.)

12. According to Jesus, what is the source of uncleanness? (vv. 20–21;  Jeremiah 17:9)

13. Read the list of evils that Jesus names in verses 21 and 22. What are ways that, without Jesus, we humans try to handle these deeply rooted sins?

14. What is the true remedy for uncleanness? (Psalm 119:9–11; Galatians 5:22–25; Philippians 3:4–9)