

Exposing our Personal Hypocrisy

Mark 7:1-8 – Legalism and Grace – Part 1

I. Undeserved Criticism: The Pharisees criticized the disciples who broke their rules (Mark 7:1-5).

- A. The Pharisees criticized some of the disciples for not washing their hands ceremonially before eating (7:1-2).
- B. The Pharisees had many other rules about washing (7:3-5).
 - 1. Legalists are critical (1, 2).
 - *Would those who know me say that I am often critical?*
 - 2. Legalists want to catch others doing something wrong (1,2)
 - *Do I “spy out” those who act in liberty – looking for them to do something wrong in my view (Galatians 2:4)?*
 - 3. Legalists elevate the personal standards of people they consider spiritual – often above scripture itself (3,4).
 - *Do I seek God’s guidance on non-absolutes or do I blindly follow the views of others?*
 - 4. Legalists are uncomfortable with differences (5).
 - *Do I expect others to live up to my convictions and preferences? Or do I have “the grace to let others be?”*

II. Deserved Rebuke: Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy (Mark 7:6-8; Isaiah 29:13).

- 1. Legalists don’t really please God although they talk about righteousness (6; Isaiah 29:13a; Galatians 2:11-14).
 - *Would God say our prevailing desire is to present an image to people or to be transformed internally by Him?*
- 2. Legalists don’t really worship because they focus on enforcing man-made rules (7, 8; Isaiah 29:13b).
- 3. Legalists don’t really obey God’s word because they are clinging to man’s ideas (8).