

## **The Proper Pursuit of Holiness**

**Text:** Mark 7:1-23

**Context** - After walking on water and crossing the Sea of Galilee to heal the people in Gennesaret, Jesus begins to teach about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

**Main Idea** - The traditions of men cannot help us battle sin - only Christ and His word.

### **To properly pursue holiness...**

#### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ off hypocritical behavior (vs. 1-7)**

- A. Hypocrisy is... 1. Focused on the External 2. Worthless in its worship 3. Focused on the fear of man.
- B. The believer in Jesus is... 1. Focused on the Internal 2. Fruitful in worship 3. Focused on the fear of God

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God above all tradition (vs. 8-14)**

- A. Not only are human traditions ineffective for cleansing the heart, they actually lead to disregard for God's Word (see v. 13; 10:5, 19; 12:28, 31). (ESV Study Bible)
- B. The example Jesus gives is the command in scripture to honor one's father and mother. The Pharisees encouraged people towards "Corbin" which was a tradition where people could divert their funds to the temple and consequently disregard assisting one's parents.

#### **3. \_\_\_\_\_ the real source of defilement (vs. 15-23)**

- A. According to Jesus, it is not our environment that corrupts us but our own sinful hearts. (Jeremiah 17:9-10; Isaiah 29:13-16)
- B. Only scripture can address the issue of defilement and the genuine needs of the heart. Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 4:12.