

Chapter 7

¹Now the pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem came together to Jesus.
²And they saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean hands, that is, they did not practice ritually washing.

³For the pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands with a fist, because they adhere to the tradition of the elders. ⁴And when they come from the market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves. There are also many other traditions they received that they cling to – such as purifying cups and pots and copper vessels.

⁵So, the pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why don’t your disciples follow the tradition of the elders? They eat bread with unclean hands!”

⁶But he said to them, “Isaiah correctly prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote:

*These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are so very far away from me.
⁷They worship me in vain,
teaching the commandments of men as if they are doctrines.”*

⁸“While abandoning God’s commandment, you hold fast to man’s traditions.”

⁹He was also saying to them, “It is almost admirable the way you continue to reject the commandment of God, so that you can establish your own tradition. ¹⁰For Moses said:

*Honor your father and your mother,
and
The one who slanders his father or mother must surely die.”*

¹¹“But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever I have that might be used to help you is Korban”’ (that is, devoted to God), ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother. ¹³Thus you set aside the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many other things like this.”

¹⁴Jesus again summoned the crowd and said to them, “Everyone listen to me and understand. ¹⁵Nothing that enters a person from outside can defile him. But the things that come out of the person are what make him unclean.”

¹⁷When Jesus went into a house away from the crowd, his disciples questioned him about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, “Do you also not understand? Don’t you know that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile the person, ¹⁹because it does not enter his heart but goes into the stomach, and then goes out into the toilet?” (By this Jesus pronounced all foods clean.)

²⁰He continued, “Rather, what comes out of a person makes him unclean. ²¹For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, all kinds of sexual immorality, stealing, murder, ²²adultery, greedy acts, and wicked actions; as well as deceit, unbridled lust,

envy, blasphemy, arrogance and foolishness. ²³All these evil things come out from within and defile a person.”

²⁴From there Jesus set out to the region of Tyre. He entered a house hoping it would not be known, but he was unable to escape notice. ²⁵But almost immediately a woman heard about him, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit. She came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Greek of Syrophoenician nationality, and she was begging him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

²⁷He said to her, “You must first allow the children to be satisfied. For it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

²⁸She replied, “Yes, lord. But even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

²⁹Jesus said to her, “Because of this answer, go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.”

³⁰And after she went away to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then he left the districts of Tyre and passed through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the districts of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a deaf man who also had a severe speech impediment, and they begged Jesus to lay his hand on him.

³³Jesus took him aside privately away from the crowd, put his fingers in the man’s ears, and spitting, touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴Looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to the man, “*Ephphatha*,” which means, “Be opened.” ³⁵Immediately his ears were opened, the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking clearly.

³⁶Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone, but the more he ordered them, the more they proclaimed it. ³⁷For they were completely amazed, saying, “He has done all things well, even making the deaf hear and the mute speak.”