

# Disciple Makers: Nurturing a Disciple's Heart | Mark 7:1-21

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## OVERVIEW

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Jesus debates with the Pharisees regarding true holiness and spirituality, which does not come from the outside, but from the inside of a person.

## OHANA TIME!

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**Icebreaker:** What is the most fun you ever had getting dirty? **Or** What is your favorite place to go out to eat?

**Activity:** Plan a get-together for the summer!

## PRAYER

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**Pray as a group:** Pray against any manifestations of pride and hypocrisy, and pray for a worshipful heart that seeks first the kingdom of God.

## QUESTIONS: MARK 7:1-21

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1. Why did the Pharisees and teachers of the law criticize/attack Jesus?
2. Given this debate, how would each define what it means to be spiritual?
3. How does the quote from Isaiah address the issue at hand?
4. In what ways did Jesus' teaching about inner spirituality versus external rituals challenge the cultural norms of his time?
5. Although the traditions were established to help people obey the law, how is it that they ended up overshadowing that law (vv. 8-9)?
6. Something declared "Corban" (i.e. devoted to God) was no longer able to be given away or used for another purpose. What does this illustration show about how traditions twisted the law?
7. How does Jesus' idea of being unclean, differ from that of the Pharisees? (See verse 15)
8. What does Jesus' emphasis on the heart and intentions behind actions reveal about the nature of true discipleship?

## APPLICATION

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1. How does Jesus' critique of the Pharisees' focus on external appearances apply to contemporary expressions of religious practice? Have you ever felt like a victim of human, religious traditions in your efforts to obey God?
2. The Pharisees were infected by hypocrisy and legalism. They cleaned the outside of the cup, but the inside was stained with sin and deceit. How can we guard against falling into the trap of outward piety without genuine internal transformation, as warned by Jesus? In what ways do Jesus' teachings in this passage challenge us to rethink our priorities and values as disciples of Christ?

