

Recap of 8/6/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 7:1-23):

1. *For the Pharisees, obeying God's law was not about loving God. Instead, they obeyed in order to profit, to appear holy, and to heighten their reputations. Obeying God's law was a means to their own ends. They were using God's law for themselves, not for God. they had become their own gods. Hypocrisy is knocking at our doors when we are more concerned with our reputation than with our character, if we're doing church our hearts remain distant from God, and if we're emphasizing where we're obedient but pointing out where others are failing. We can obey God without loving Him. But we can't love God without obeying His commands (John 14:15, 21, 23-24)." (NLT One-Year Study Bible)*

2. *..., the man who paid the most rigid attention to mere external observances of human invention was reckoned the holiest man." (Ryle)*

3. *The progressions of the Pharisees from the Word of God to the traditions of men:*

-1st Step – they added their traditions to the Scriptures as a useful supplement.

-2nd Step – they placed their supplement on a level with the Word of God, given it equal authority.

-3rd Step – they honored their supplements above the Word of God.

4. *The dangers of legalism:*

-Legalism engenders pride – superiority.

-Legalism produces contempt for other people, bringing people under the condemnation of human rules and traditions.

-Legalism engenders isolation, separation, elitism.

-Legalism tends toward hypocrisy-the appearance of holiness without the corresponding reality.

-Legalism replaces the Word of God with manmade rules and traditions.

-Legalism produces false spirituality, false worship, and false piety.

-The legalist almost never recognizes himself/herself.

-The legalist majors on minors and misses the majors.

5. *The problem was that they had the wrong idea of sin and holiness—true holiness is a matter of the inward attitude and obedience not just external actions/observances. The problem is the heart not the hands. God requires heart worship—not just outward conformity. True worship, true spirituality must come from the heart and be based upon and directed by the Word of God. (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 2:2)*