

Right in Front of You: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of May 17th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week 14: Mark 7:1-23

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

Constable's note: *"Jesus cited an example of how his critics used human traditions to set aside divine imperatives. They professed to honor Moses through whom God commanded the Israelites to honor their parents and threatened disobedience with death (Exod. 20:12; 21:17). Honoring parents manifests itself in financial support and practical care if necessary. Mark interpreted the word "corban," a gift devoted to God, for his Gentile readers. This word is Greek, but it transliterates a Hebrew word that the Jews used when they dedicated something to God. Jewish tradition permitted people to declare something they owned as dedicated to God. This did not mean that they had to give it to the priests or even give up the use of it themselves. However, it freed them from giving it to someone else, even a needy parent."*

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- Jesus says, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (v.6). The Pharisees looked spiritually healthy outwardly, but their hearts were distant from God. What are some ways we can confuse spiritual activity with actual closeness to Jesus? Where are you most tempted to measure your faith by outward behavior instead of inward transformation?
- Jesus says the real problem isn't outside of us, but within our hearts. Instead of blaming circumstances or other people, He points inward. When do you tend to blame external things for struggles that may actually reveal something deeper in your own heart? Why is that so hard to admit?
- In Mark 7:21-23, Jesus lists things like envy, deceit, arrogance, and anger as evidence of hearts that need healing. His invitation isn't "try harder," but "come to Me." Which part of this passage feels most convicting or encouraging to you right now? What would it look like to honestly bring that area to Jesus instead of just trying to manage it?