

Grace Groups Homework
"This is the Word of God"

Mark 7:1–13

24 February 2019

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What type of church liturgy did you grow up with?

WORLDVIEW

2. How would you like to engage with the sceptic who decries all forms of religion, claiming that all religions are simply manmade traditions and superstitions that people follow without thinking?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. How do the following Old Testament passages inform your understanding of the text in Mark 7 this week? What do these passages mandate? How does this differ from the Pharisees' application of these laws as evidenced in our text?

Exodus 20:12—Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 30:17–21—The LORD said to Moses, "You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet. When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the LORD, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

Leviticus 19:1–8—On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

Ezekiel 33:30–33—As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, "Come, and hear what the

word is that comes from the LORD.” And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it. When this comes—and come it will!—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Building fences around our lives and around our worship is generally a good thing. However, these fences can become a problem. When? How? What do we potentially miss out on while sitting safely behind the fence?

How do we evaluate what fences are necessary and appropriate and which need to be torn down? What fences have you had to pull down over the years?

5. Sharp rebuke and pointed criticism are not typically regarded as Christian virtues. Is there a place for such confrontation, especially because none of us is Jesus? If there is, how should it be pursued and what is the aim of these interactions?
6. Critics of the Christian faith and of the Bible argue that the Bible restricts human growth, understanding, tolerance, and flourishing. The Bible is seen as outdated and not relevant for modern times. Is there validity to this criticism?
7. We all have great skill in justifying our disobedience to God’s clear commands; we are masters at elevating our authority over God’s. Will you transparently describe where you have been, and still are, deficient in applying God’s word consistently?
8. Why do you think that, though we know that God’s word is true and necessary for our everyday life, we still disregard it and fail to submit to it? How do we practically, as individuals and a church, guard against this innate proclivity to make void the word of God?

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long-life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.