*13* STUDY OF MARK 2020

Their Hearts Are Far from Me

Mark 7:1-23

‘These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’ (6b)

1. List some traditions of the elders that the Pharisees and all the Jews observed? (3-4) What do these traditions have in common? How did Jesus’ disciples broke the traditions of the elders? (2) What did the religious leaders have to say about this? (1-2,5)
2. What is more important to God: clean hands or a clean heart? Explain (6, 1 Sam 16:7)? Why did Jesus call the religious leaders hypocrites? What does it mean that they *worshiped God in vain*? (7)
3. What is more important: holding on to the commands of God or traditions of men? Explain. (8) How did the religious leaders set aside the commands of God and so nullify His word? (9-13) What does this show about the condition of their hearts?
4. What did Jesus teach the crowd about what makes a person unclean? (14-15) Why can nothing that enters our bodies make us unclean? (17-19) What really corrupts a person? (20, Jer 17:9) What naturally comes from within, out of our hearts? (21-23)
5. How does our unclean hearts affect our relationship with God? (Gen 6:5-7) But with what does God purify our hearts? (Heb 9:22, 13-14) Why would God do this? How should we respond to God’s love and grace? (1 Jn 1:7-9; See David’s sincere prayer for forgiveness in Psalm 51)