Week 7, Mark 7

Discussion Questions

*Leaders*: please choose in advance the questions you think would be more helpful for your group to discuss.

1. Share the last time you were confronted by hypocrisy in any form. How did it make you feel? Why does hypocrisy usually annoy or offend us?
2. How do you normally answer someone who says ‘the church is full of hypocrites’?

**Read or Review Mark 7:1-8**

3. Why were the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law upset about Jesus’ disciples eating with unclean/unwashed hands?
4. Why was Jesus so tough on them in his response? (v6-8)
5. Do you think these words could apply to Christians today? To our church? To you?
6. If someone shared with you that they feel they honour God with their lips (through what is sung and said and prayed on Sunday in Church) but in reality, their heart is far from God, what would you suggest they do to change this situation?
7. Are there ways in which the church (generally) today is more concerned about holding on to the ‘traditions of men’ rather than ‘the commands of God’? What about in our church specifically?

**Read or Review Mark 7:9-22**

8. Any creative ways in which you’ve twisted God’s word to make it look like you’re doing something for him which gets you out of doing something you should have done for someone else?
9. The heart of the matter is that the heart is the matter! Eating stuff is not going to impact your relationship with God. But what is in your heart will! What would you say to someone who says – ‘look – most people are basically good’? (Extra: See Genesis 6:5-6.)

**Read or Review Mark 7:24-39**

11. Do you get what Jesus was doing with the Gentile woman? What are the implications for us dogs? (i.e., – assuming we’re all Gentiles!)
12. As Jesus opens the ears of the deaf and mute man – it may just be a brilliant sign from Mark the evangelist, that people are starting to see and understand who Jesus is. What prevents us from being so overwhelmed with amazement that we can’t keep quiet about Jesus?