

JESUS IS KING

THE GOSPEL OF MARK PART ONE

5/26/2024 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: How can you tell if someone is being genuine?

READ: Mark 7:1-30

FOCUS: Jesus desires us to worship Him with humble and persistent hearts.

OBSERVE:

- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, for using man made rules like ceremonial washing to pursue righteousness rather than honoring God and seeking His righteousness.
- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for setting aside the commandments to pursue their man-made traditions, such as contributing money to the temple when they could honor their parents by providing needed resources.
- Jesus taught that nothing that goes into a person defiles them, but rather that evil thoughts and actions from sinful hearts defile them.
- In contrast to rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus commends the faith of a Gentile woman who persistently asked Him to free her daughter from demonic oppression, even after His initial denial of her request.
- Jesus didn't free the Gentile woman's daughter because of any righteousness she may have gained by following Jewish religious customs. Jesus saw her faith in her humility and persistent asking.

REFLECT:

- In what ways can you better understand your heart?
- How do you respond (or what do you do) when your heart is in the wrong place?
- How can you be more persistent in honoring Jesus with what comes from your heart?

TAKE ACTION:

- Pause before doing your usual "religious" routines this week. Ask Jesus if your heart is honoring Him in those actions. Pray and listen to His voice.

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, thank You for replacing our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh through the great love and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Open our eyes to see our hearts clearly and see when we fail to please You. May Your Holy Spirit fill us to overflowing. Reinvigorate our hearts with faith to love, honor and serve you, with our hearts first and then with our actions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.