

Unit 6

Peak University Study Guide  
**FAITH: SURRENDERS THE HEART**

**Mark 7:1-23**

**Open with Praise Time:** - *“Loving Relationships”* – What are some of the greatest acts of compassion you have recently seen?

**LESSON PLAN**



Denotes Apply:



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters.

**Ask:** What is the dirtiest job you’ve ever had to do?

**Transition:** Someone can be standing before God covered with black grease and God will see Him as white as freshly fallen snow. God is concerned with the purity of our hearts. That is where all cleanliness and godliness comes from.

**The Bottom Line:** Jesus teaches us that being clean before God has to do with our heart rather than our actions.

***Background** – Between Mark 2:1 and 3:6 we see 5 controversies between the religious establishment and Jesus that ends with them trying to figure out how they can set up a plot to kill Him. Obviously “Thou shalt not commit murder,” was missing from their Old Testament. Just after that they accused Jesus of being in a partnership working with Satan. Now they appear again to criticize Jesus. Nothing destroys the Spirit of God to work within people more than pride and pettiness! They have both!*

**Read Mark 7:1-13**

1. What was the criticism?
2. There were rules about washing in the Old Testament. Were the disciples breaking God’s Law?



Do we have any rules we make in the church that are not necessarily in Scripture?

3. They are questioning the integrity of Jesus’ disciples. How does Jesus respond to their accusations?

*Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 right after calling them hypocrites. The Greek literally meant a play actor. Someone who assumes the identity of another. Do you think that was a good*

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*word to be called? No! Jesus confronted religious hypocrisy boldly and without sparing words.*

4. Read Isaiah 29:13-29

*“In that day” was and phrase used for the day of the Messiah’s reign on earth. The Holy One of God refers to the Messiah. 700 years before Jesus is born God reveals the religious hypocrisy that will rise against Him.*

5. What does Jesus have to say about the hearts of the religious leaders?
6. What does God say about their worship because of their hardened hearts?



- How do we set aside the commands of God to embrace our own traditions?

7. Can someone explain the warped tradition the Elders had passed down to allow them freedom from the Law of honoring their father and mother?



- How can we lose our compassion? Does that not challenge the depth of our faith?

**Read Mark 7:14-23**

*Now, Jesus decides to teach the crowd a lesson so they don’t end up becoming like these religious hypocrites. The lesson is a diagram of the heart that loves their God and walks with Jesus.*

8. What is it Jesus claims a man can eat that will make him unclean before God?
9. Now what is Jesus’ response when the crowd leaves and the disciples ask Him what in the world He meant by this parable?
10. What is the list of unclean things Jesus says comes out of hearts?

***Signs of a Blackened Heart***

1. *evil thoughts – an umbrella term that includes all the following actions first thought of in the mind.*
2. *sexual immorality – Greek = Pornei, sexual immorality*
3. *theft - stealing*
4. *murder – premeditated killing*
5. *adultery*
6. *greed – a love of money is one of these. It is wanting things so badly you don’t care what you have to do or who you step on to get them.*
7. *malice – an evil disposition toward others*
8. *deceit – dishonesty to get your way*

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9. *lewdness – a readiness and hunger for all pleasure without conscience*
10. *envy – looking with a wickedness toward others*
11. *slander – blasphemy or speech looking to tear someone down*
12. *arrogance – inflated ego or self-importance*
13. *folly – living foolishly with your gift of life*



**Interactive Teaching Ideas:** ideas for learner-focused teaching. (Break into groups for about 5 minutes then come back and share. What seems to be the most common sins listed that occur in the church? Which ones are most common in the world around you?)



What lesson do you think Jesus wants us to apply today?

**CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY**

**(Slide 8) Share the bottom line:** Jesus teaches us that being clean before God has to do with our heart rather than our actions. Share your favorite Scriptures that keep your heart clean before God and man.

**Prayer:** Praise God at each table for these Scriptural truths that cleanse our lives.