

## **STUDY 6 - The Purifying King (Mark 7:1-23)**

*What are some rules or traditions that Australian society could not function without? What about some that you wish we could get rid of all together?*

### **Read Mark 7:1-13**

1. What was the tradition that the Pharisees and teachers of the law are referring to in verses 1-5? What were these kind of traditions based upon?
2. How does Jesus respond to their challenge? Why do you think he comes out so harshly in opposition to their rules?
3. Is there ever a place for human rules and traditions in the church? What are their benefits? What are their dangers? On what basis should they be weighed up?
4. What illustration does Jesus use of the way in which human traditions had pushed aside God's commands? (vv. 9-13) Can you think of any modern day examples (not necessarily related to money) where we might be guilty of doing the same kind of thing?

### **Read Mark 7:14-23**

5. Restate Jesus' one-sentence parable from verse 15 in your own words. What do you think it means?
6. How does Jesus interpret his own parable? (vv. 17-23) Why is it that the heart lies at the centre of our problem of purity?

7. What is the significance of Jesus declaring all foods clean (v. 19b)? Does this mean it doesn't matter what we eat at all? Look up the following New Testament passages to see what they have to say:
  - (a) Colossians 2:16-17
  - (b) 1 Timothy 4:1-5
  - (c) 1 Corinthians 8:9-13
8. Read Titus 3:1-8. If our purity-problem is inside us, what hope is there for any of us to be clean in God's sight?

**Implications:** Complete the following table, trying to think of two or three examples for each category of rules and traditions:

	<b>Family Home</b>	<b>Household of God (i.e. church, Bible Study)</b>
<b>Helpful rules / traditions</b>		
<b>Unhelpful rules / traditions</b>		
<b>Neutral rules / traditions</b>		

- Spend some time as a group discussing ways in which we can make sure our human traditions enhance, not erode, God's Word.

### **Give thanks and pray**

*Give thanks for Jesus, who has washed the robes of believers to be white as snow (Rev 22:14)*

*Pray that we would never let our traditions get in the way of God's Word*