

SERMON NOTES  
January 20, 2013  
T. Don Guthrie, preaching

**Traditional? Contemporary?**  
**Learning to Think Like Jesus**  
Mark 7:1-23

The year of opposition

Pharisee watchdogs

Tradition – *paradosis*; *para* – “beside”

*dosis* – “to hand, give”

- Jesus was FREE from tradition that did not serve.  
e.g., “hand washing”
  
- Jesus was FAITHFUL to tradition that did serve.  
e.g., synagogue
  
- The ISSUE for Jesus was the commandment of God.  
Romans 14:5b “Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.”

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“You don’t mean this literally, do you Lord?” v. 17

## Mark 7:1-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, *thus* observing the traditions of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and *when they come* from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) <sup>5</sup>The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?"

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<sup>6</sup>And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,

BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

<sup>7</sup>BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,

TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'

<sup>8</sup>Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

<sup>9</sup>He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; <sup>11</sup>but you say, 'If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),' <sup>12</sup>you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; <sup>13</sup>*thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

<sup>14</sup>After He called the crowd to Him again, He *began* saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. <sup>16</sup>[If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.]"

<sup>17</sup>When he had left the crowd *and* entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (*Thus He* declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup>deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."