

LifeGroup Study SheetJuly 9th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 23)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Do you and your family have any favorite “traditions” you do on a regular basis? Maybe it's always having pizza on Friday nights or playing board games together on a certain day of the week. Have anyone in your family gotten upset when someone tried to change your “tradition?” Why were they so upset?

Jesus throws a wrench into some “traditions” the Pharisees have in this story to show a much bigger spiritual lesson!

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 7:1-6. Jesus outlines the spiritual heart that the Pharisee's had in this story. Verse 6 highlights the “hypocritical heart” that they had. They followed the traditions of men and focused on the external rules they created. They were more concerned about looking good externally, but their hearts had no concern with following God. How can you fall into that same heart condition? Have you ever been so concerned with how you look externally but your heart was not focused on your inward condition?

Read Luke 11:37-38

Question 2: Read Mark 7:18. Jesus also outlines another condition of the human heart, the hard heart. The Pharisee's hearts were hardened towards understanding the things God wanted to teach them. **Mark 4:12** highlights this principle, “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may hear but not understand.” How has your heart been stubborn to change in ways God is trying to show you? Can you remember a time where it took time after time for God to reveal something to you until you finally allowed God to soften your heart?

Question 3: Read Mark 7:19-23. The goal for Christ to show us is to see how our hearts can be healthy. **Ezekiel 36:26** talks about God giving us a brand-new heart, a heart that yearns for God and not our fleshly desires. Pastor Jeff talked about different Scriptures to allow God to change our hearts.

Protected Heart (Proverbs 4:23)

Pure Hearts (Matthew 5:8)

Prepared Hearts (1 Samuel 16:7)

How are you protecting your heart? How are you allowing God to continue to keep your heart pure? How are you preparing yourself how the changes God wants to make in your heart?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?