

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today's topic: **INSIDE OUT**.

1. Human traditions or God's commands

- a) Mark 7:1-5 Where did the religious leaders get these rituals of ceremonial washing?
- b) This practice was not about personal hygiene but about following human traditions and criticizing those who don't comply. How did Jesus respond? Mark 7:6-9
- c) What example did Jesus give of setting human tradition above the clear teaching of God's Word? Mark 7:9-13
- d) What human traditions have been incorporated into many Christian churches that are not in harmony with the clear teachings of the Word of God?

2. The teaching of Jesus about defilement

- a) Mark 7:14-16 What teaching about defilement did Jesus share with the multitude?
- b) Mark 7:17-23 What additional explanation did Jesus give to His disciples?
- c) How is this idea of ceremonial uncleanness different from the health guidelines in Leviticus 11?

3. Encounter with a Syro-Phoenician woman

- a) Mark 7:24 Why did Jesus travel with His disciples to Gentile territory, the region of Tyre and Sidon?
- b) Mark 7:25-27 What earnest appeal did a Syro-Phoenician woman make to Jesus and why did He respond in such an unusual way?

- c) Mark 7:28-30 How did Jesus affirm her for her unwavering faith in Him?
- d) What additional details recorded by Matthew help us to understand this encounter with the Syro-Phoenician woman? Matthew 15:21-28
- e) What important lesson can we learn from this story about not excluding outsiders who come in need of God's blessing in their lives?

4. Healing a deaf man with a speech impediment

- a) Mark 7:31-35 What impresses you about the healing of this deaf man with a speech impediment?
- b) Why do you think Jesus sighed when He said, "Be opened"?
- c) Mark 7:36-37 Again, Jesus commanded people not to tell anyone about this miracle of healing. Why?

5. A story and teaching about bread

- a) Mark 8:1-10 (summarize) How does the feeding of the 4,000 differ from the feeding of the 5,000?
- b) How did Jesus respond to the demand of the Pharisees for sign from heaven? Mark 8:11-13 Why?
- c) Mark 8:14-21 What lesson do you learn from the conversation of Jesus with His disciples in the boat?
- d) What evidence has Jesus given you to believe in Him as the true Messiah, the Son of God?

