

Into the Life of Jesus

A study in the gospel of Mark

Study #12

Review of last week:

This past week we reflected on the powerful ministry of Jesus through the Twelve, as well as their great grief over the execution of John the Baptist – *the joy and pain of the already/not yet kingdom of God*.

- Where did this text and/or teaching speak to you and your life with God?
- Was there anything that challenged you, encouraged you, or left you with questions?

This week: Digging into Mark 7:1-23 together

Take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to hear His Word. And then read the passage aloud a few times – possibly in a few different translations.

- Clarify together: What's going here? What is Jesus' concern and end-goal?
- What "traditions" do we keep as Christians, or as a Christian community, that aren't actually inspired by the Spirit?
 - What are some of the good gifts of tradition?
 - When do traditions become dangerous?
- What are some ways in which we allow/use "tradition" (*the way we've always done things*) to supersede God's commands/will?
- According to the Pharisees, what makes a person clean and unclean (before God, others, ourselves)?
 - And does Jesus respond to this?
- This passage reveals the authority of Jesus over our traditions (ways of being, doing, thinking).
 - In what ways have we had to learn to submit our traditions (practices/perspectives) to the wise counsel and commands of God?
 - Are there any traditions in our lives/shared life that might need to be reconsidered, reprioritized, or even rejected in devotion to God?

Pray: Take a few minutes to bow before Jesus together, to let Him search our hearts and lives, and then speak back your response to his authoritative Voice.