

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and tangled branches, is positioned on a light-colored, weathered wooden plank. The background is a close-up of the wood's grain, showing some small holes and natural textures. The lighting is soft, highlighting the sharp points of the thorns and the grain of the wood.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account

MAIN IDEA:

When we blame our community or environment for our sin, we completely miss its true origin.

Mark 7:1-23

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.

Mark 7:1-23

⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus,

Mark 7:1-23

“Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Mark 7:1-23

⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.” ⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

Mark 7:1-23

¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) — ¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother.

Mark 7:1-23

¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” ¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them.

Mark 7:1-23

Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?”

Mark 7:1-23

¹⁹ For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come —

Mark 7:1-23

sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Jesus gives three stern warnings to those who do this...

- 1) Don't ever set aside God's Word for human traditions.

“This confrontation was no incidental skirmish; it got to the very heart of true religious faith. Each new generation must engage in a similar conflict, for human nature is prone to hold on to worn-out man-made traditions and ignore or disobey the living Word of God. It is true that some traditions are helpful as reminders of our rich heritage, or as “cement” to bind generations,

but we must constantly beware lest tradition take the place of truth. It does us good to examine our church traditions in the light of God's Word and to be courageous enough to make changes."

– Dr. Warren Wiersbe

Jesus gives three stern warnings to those who do this...

- 1) Don't ever set aside God's Word for human traditions.

Jesus gives three stern warnings to those who do this...

- 2) Don't ever use God's Word for personal gain or to manipulate others.

Top Ten Symptoms of Emotionally Unhealthy Spirituality:

- 1) Using God to run from God
- 2) Ignoring the emotions of anger, sadness & fear
- 3) Dying to the wrong things
- 4) Denying the past's impact on the present
- 5) Dividing our lives into “secular” and “sacred” compartments

Top Ten Symptoms of Emotionally Unhealthy Spirituality:

- 6) Doing for God instead of being with God
- 7) Spiritualizing away conflict
- 8) Covering over brokenness, weakness & failure
- 9) Living without limits
- 10) Judging other people's spiritual journey

Jesus gives three stern warnings to those who do this...

2) Don't ever use God's Word for personal gain or to manipulate others.

Jesus gives three stern warnings to those who do this...

- 3) Don't ever forget God's Word is intended to change our hearts, not merely our behaviors.

MAIN IDEA:

When we blame our community or environment for our sin, we completely miss its true origin.

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and tangled branches, is positioned on a light-colored wooden plank. The wood shows signs of wear and has some faint red stains. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the wood and the sharp points of the thorns.

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