



The Jesus I Never Knew

Your Religion Might be Getting in the Way

Mark 7:1-8

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

So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the traditions of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

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.
They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

- 1.) The Christian faith is not so much about a perfect morality but a perfect Savior.
- 2.) We are not called to be the moral police of society.
- 3.) We were never commissioned to demand that secular culture reflect biblical principles. We were commissioned to reflect biblical principles in the middle of secular culture, pointing to God’s redemptive story.
- 4.) “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral . . . In that case you would have to leave this world . . . what business is it of mine to judge those outside the Church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. ‘Expel the wicked person from among you’” *1 Corinthians 5:9, 12-13*
- 5.) Make disciples not converts.
- 6.) “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- 7.) Checkmarks are not the cross.

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