

**MONDAY 4.29.24 - Mark 7:1-9**

Here it becomes clear that Jesus wants his disciples, and us by extension, to be sure to observe the spirit of the law and commands of God, more than 'the traditions of the elders.' In today's verse 5, the Pharisees asked, "Why do your disciples ...eat with defiled hands?" It may have been true that the disciples' hands were 'dirty', but they were not defiled or sinful. Jesus was concerned with their, and our, hearts and hands and that they be about Godly and good activities. Elsewhere He said, "It is not what goes into a man that defiles him, but that which comes out." It is not our hands eating inward that is sinful but what we think, say and do outwardly that is sinful.

Jesus told them to stop making commandments of men's traditions and start obeying God's commands. We should endeavor to do that very same thing.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 4.30.24 - Philippians 3:7-11**

Like most of you, as a youngster, I had a list of chores to do each week. Certain rewards would be withheld until the bathroom was cleaned or the yard was mowed. Since I wanted to play outside, I would even help my brother with his chores, though not often!!

Do we ever treat God like that? If I do such and such this week, He will smile on me and give me what I want? If I fail, will I see His frown? Let's face it - our hearts are little legalistic monitors!

Aren't you thankful that our righteousness doesn't depend on checking off our chore list? Paul yearns to gain Christ, *not* by the 'righteousness' deeds he had done! No, no! Paul was found in Him because and *only because* of **faith** in Christ's righteousness! Our Father's smile is gained by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone! Hallelujah!!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 5.1.24 - John 5:17-30**

Imagine you're buying a new couch for your living room. After looking at the display, you select the one you want, go to the cashier, and make your purchase. But then, you're surprised to learn that the couch you want won't be delivered until next week. In a sense, you have the couch, but you don't have it. Isn't it wonderful to know that eternal life isn't like that? Instead, the moment you trust Christ for eternal life, it is yours. In John 5:24 (the first verse I memorized as a believer), Jesus promises: "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." That means right now. It's not something that we pick up when we die. When we trust Christ, He doesn't offer a "pay now and pick up later" policy. When a person trusts Him, eternal life takes place at that moment.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 5.2.24 - 1 Kings 8:61**

When Solomon had finished his prayers at the dedication of the temple, he turned to the people. He praised the Lord for giving rest to his people Israel and for the fulfillment of all of his promises. He prays for the Lord's continued presence, and that he would turn their hearts toward Him, so they walk in obedience and keep His commands, and that he would meet their daily needs. By this "all of the people of the earth would know that the Lord is God and that there is no other."

He concludes his blessing with this encouragement in verse 61, and it is now their turn: "And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, always."

Solomon's words resonate even today. Just as God is always faithful, the same is expected of us as we commit our hearts in obedience to his Word.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 5.3.24. - Psalm 25:4**

Youth for Christ had an illustration that I think fits today's topic very well. It represents your life as a circle with a throne in the middle of it. The throne represents the thrown of your life and the person sitting on it represents the person who is in control. Prior to your accepting Him Christ was outside the circle. Once you accepted Christ as your Savior, He moved from outside the circle to inside the circle. Once Christ is in your life the question becomes, who is going to sit on the throne you or Christ? Is Christ your savior? Great! Is He Lord of your Life? Christ wants to be on the throne of your life, and if He is not, you are not experiencing the joy of your Christian life in the way that God desires for you. Are you experiencing the true joy of being a Christian? If not, maybe you need to consider who is sitting on the throne.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
NURSERY (through Age 3) \*9:40AM ONLY  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - March 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 26<sup>th</sup>  
LOCATION: B8-10 with Dave Decamp  
**Explore the Bible** - *Genesis 20-50*.  
LOCATION: B11 with Lane Kemler  
**Bible Studies for Life** - "It's All About Jesus"  
Beginning April 14<sup>th</sup> "Being an Authentic Church"  
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day - Beginning April 14  
**"When Your Way Isn't Working"** by Kyle Idleman

### SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade meet downstairs.  
9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade meet upstairs.
- Adults** Dive Deep with Doug  
LOCATION: Worship Center

### E2 SPRING SMALL GROUPS

- Women's** THURSDAY EVENING STUDY - Began March 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm at Kulp UMC, Exodus 19–40 with Elizabeth Williams.
- Men's Bible Study** - Began April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the YAC.  
Wild at Heart by John Eldredge with Vince DiLoretto

### EVENING GROUP STUDY

- Wednesday Study** - Begins May 1<sup>st</sup> - at 6:30pm in B8-10.  
"Contagious Faith" by Mark Mittelberg - with Barry Wills  
Learn to share the Good News of Jesus effectively.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECT CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU

## John 5:1-16 *A Deadly Enemy In The Church*

John wrote his book to convince people that Jesus is the Messiah and to encourage them to place their trust in Jesus for eternal life. So, John records eight of Jesus' miracles that would convince his readers to place their faith in Jesus. The first miracle is found in John chapter 2. That's where Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The second miracle is recorded in John chapter 4. Jesus was in Cana once again, but He performed a long-distance miracle. He healed a royal official's son who was near death 20 miles away in Capernaum. In John 5, Jesus performs the third miracle that the fourth Gospel records—the healing of the lame man.

A legalist is one who fails to distinguish between \_\_\_\_\_ commands and the \_\_\_\_\_ application of those commands.

"One of the most serious problems facing the church today is the problem of legalism. Legalism wrenches the joy of the Lord from the Christian believer, and with the joy of the Lord goes His power for vital worship and vibrant service. Nothing is left but cramped, somber, dull, and listless profession." ~ S. Lewis Johnson

### Application—How to defeat the enemy:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ between your tradition and God's truth


You must become a student of the Word. Read the Bible. Understand what God requires of you. In this way, you won't be enslaved by another person's traditions.

2. On \_\_\_\_\_ issues, cultivate your own convictions

If the Word of God says to do something, do it! If the Word of God says not to do something, don't do it! Everything else is your personal preference.

3. Allow Christians the freedom to \_\_\_\_\_ their own convictions—even when they \_\_\_\_\_ from yours

If a Christian has arrived at convictions that are not the same as yours, how should you react? Criticize him? Condemn him? Confront him? Correct him? No!

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 29th - May 3rd

### INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

### OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "A Deadly Enemy in the Church" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on May 5<sup>th</sup>, "Radical Claims" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
John 20:31