

Mark Chapter 7 – Workbook Questions

“...You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God
in order to keep your tradition!” (7:9)

1. Contrast the elders’ traditions about what is considered defilement with Jesus’ teachings about both Jewish dietary law and handwashing. What are you learning that is applicable today?
2. By now you’ve no doubt identified a pattern to the disciples’ response to Jesus’ teachings. What is it (see v.18) and why is the next story perhaps appearing here? (See 7:24-30)
3. What does this story indicate about where the ‘mission field’ is for those who might be introduced to Christ Jesus’ teachings? (Hint: what is her nationality?)
4. What do the Pharisees in 8:11-13 have in common with another group Mark portrays throughout the Gospel so far? (See 8:14-22) How does the ‘yeast of the Pharisees’ appear in your life today? (Spend some time on this. Very subtle!)
5. Compare the final story in Ch.7 (v. 31-37) with Isa. 35:1-6. Would the Jews have known that earlier text? What response does this healing elicit that you’ve seen before in Mark, and what is it telling you?