



Life of Christ Series
**Do We Seek Transformation or
Tradition?**
Mark 7:1-23

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There are Gospel connections between the accounts of Matthew, Luke and Mark. In last week's study 'The Revelation of God', Jesus walked across the water to come alongside the disciple's struggle. In Matthew 14 verse 28, as Jesus approaches the boat Peter calls out to Jesus and asks to come out and meet him. As Peter steps onto the waves and walks forward he realizes his surrounds and quickly begins to sink. Of course, Jesus is there to rescue him and climbs into the boat. Matthews account records the disciples "worshiped him saying 'Truly you are the Son of God.'" Mark's account records them being "utterly astounded" as if they did recognize the messiahship of Jesus and His display of divine power. I think we can lean on toward the Armenian theology that our hearts reveal Jesus as God. But also entrust in the Reformer's theology that God reveals this same truth Himself no matter what. Before we read Mark 7, may we embrace the reality that Jesus was both God and man. In the scripture context, we see this revelation of God in the face of Christ. **John 14:7, 10** says "*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also... Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?*" Paul, in **Philippians 2:6-8** shares "*though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*"

- Jesus is fully GOD, providing bread from Heaven.
- Jesus is fully MAN, as the new Moses leading people to salvation, which is HIMSELF.

Today, we will study how Jesus answers the Pharisees when they are concerned with His disciples not practicing ceremonial laws any longer.

Mark 7:1-23

"Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they

wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." ⁹ And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)— ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do." ¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?"^[1] (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

1. The Christian Faith is based more on the TRANSFORMATION of CHRIST than the TRADITION of MAN. (v 1-7)

- CONTEMPT is demonstrated not necessarily by their words but rather their LIFESTYLE.

2. Jesus is not against TRADITION but only against that which ABANDONS Scripture. (v. 8-13)

- Christianity was NOT meant to hold its beliefs in tradition; but in Christ ALONE.

The Nicene Creed is a statement of the orthodox faith of the early Christian church in opposition to certain heresies, especially Arianism. This tradition has held solely to Christ alone and keeping to the Scriptures. It is called Nicene because it was originally adopted in the city of Nicaea (present day Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea in 325.

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.***

***Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

3. The Sinfulness of the HEART is Expressed in What a Person SAYS and DOES.

(v. 8-13)

- For the Christian life, there is no separation of BELIEF from BEHAVIOR.

We do these things because Christ is changing our hearts, not because tradition says we must.