

December 11/12, 2004

## Study Questions

*The Good News About Jesus According to Mark*

# The Heart of the Problem

Mark 7:1-23

Pastor Bryan Clark

### Opening Discussion

1. What is the difference between treating the symptoms and treating the root cause?
2. Do you think the following are spiritual symptoms or root problems? Why?  
  
Anger  
Immorality  
Fear or anxiety  
Rebellion  
Issues of the tongue  
Gossip  
Overspending  
Critical spirit
3. To address these problems, are we going to be more effective going after the symptoms or the root problem? Why?

### Bible Study

1. Read Mark 7:1-13. Why does Jesus call the religious leaders “hypocrites”?  
  
What is a religious hypocrite?
2. Are all legalists hypocrites? Why or why not?
3. In what ways do we honor the traditions of men over the commandments of God?
4. Read Mark 7:14-23. What is Jesus saying to the disciples?  
  
What does He mean?
5. Can external “fences” change these behaviors according to Jesus?

6. Bryan stated in his message that legalists don't trust that God really changes hearts therefore they don't trust that their own hearts and the hearts of others are really changed. Therefore they revert to man-made "fences" to attempt to control behavior. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
  
7. If the statement in question #6 is true, what is the solution for our bent toward legalism?

## **Application**

1. What are the top three issues you struggle with in your Christian life? Are these symptoms or root causes?
  
2. Given what you've learned in this text from Mark 7:1-23, what is the key to addressing those three issues?
  
3. What are three practical things you can do to cultivate a heart for God? (See Mark 4:13-20; James 1:22.)