

DISCUSSION IDEAS

TRADITION vs. SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:1-23

November 15th, 2015

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHO IS ENTITLED TO INTERPRET THE WORD OF GOD?**

Has anyone here ever been in a church where the denominational interpretation of Scripture was not to be questioned?

"We hold to the teachings of (Luther, Baptist Doctrine, Catholic Teachings, Calvinism, etc.)!"

Did you know that the church Council of Trent on April 8, 1546, declared that no private person had the right to disagree with the church leaders as to Biblical teachings?

Now read Mark 7:1-23 with this thought in mind.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: TRADITION-KEEPING OF THE LEADERS.**

The Jewish leaders complained about ritual washing.

What was Jesus' response in Mark 7:6-13?

They believed in strict rules of approved "clean" food.

What was Jesus' answer in vv. 14-23?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHAT IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY?**

According to Jesus in Mark 7:8, what is the bottom line in our understanding the Truth?

What do we do when two of us disagree as to what a passage means?

How does paying attention to the context help?

What are some other resources to help us be faithful to the Word?

♦ **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT – THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART:**

In the following discussions, it might be helpful to have a copy of the Sunday text available with the statements by Dallas Willard.

Read, re-read and ponder what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:2-11.

There is a lot to think about here.

How easy is it to focus on external rituals/traditional actions.

Of what can such a focus rob us.

How important is the condition of our heart?

Make a list of the specifics from the 2 Peter passage, and think on how they apply.

What does the Word say about being diligent and about putting out our own effort?

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How does Romans 12:1-2 relate to this?

Does God just use me as I am, or does He desire me to be changed?

What power does God provide to make His will possible?

What does fellowship with other believers have to do with our personal growth?

♦ **PRAYER:**

Let us be faithful in praying for the Ingvoidstads and the Tagbanwa people:

- Nate and Megan are in Manila and will need to find an appropriate vehicle to purchase.
- Pray for their health as well.
- Ingvoidstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the selection and growth of Tagbanwan Elders.
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.

Pray also for our elders as they plan and prepare to shepherd us into the kind of fellowship God desires.