

## WHAT REALLY DEFILES A PERSON

Mark 7:1-23

Key Verse: 7:20-21a

1. What tradition did the Pharisees and teachers of the law criticize Jesus' disciples for violating (1-5)? How had these traditions developed<sup>1</sup>?
2. How did Jesus diagnose their problem using Scripture (6-7)? What kind of worship misses the point? How can this be our problem as well? How does Jesus relate this to their attitude toward God's word (8)?
3. What example does Jesus give of their setting aside the commandments of God to hold to their own tradition (9-13)? What can we learn here?
4. What did Jesus teach the crowd about what makes a person unclean (14-15)? What surprising teaching did Jesus explain to his disciples (17-19)? According to Jesus, what really defiles a person (20-23; Jer 17:9)?
5. How can we honor and worship God with a pure heart (Ezk 18:31-32; Titus 3:5; Heb 9:14; 1Jn 1:9)?

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<sup>1</sup> NIV Study Bible note on Mt 15:2 reads, "After the Babylonian exile, the Jewish rabbis began to make meticulous rules governing daily life. These were interpretations and applications of the law of Moses, handed down from generation to generation. In Jesus' day this 'tradition of the elders' was in oral form."