



Daily Reflections

February 6, 2018

Scripture

Mark 7: 1-13

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

(For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves.

And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.)

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"

He responded,

"Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He went on to say,

"How well you have set aside the commandment of God
in order to uphold your tradition!
For Moses said,
Honor your father and your mother,
and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.
Yet you say,
'If someone says to father or mother,
"Any support you might have had from me is qorban"
(meaning, dedicated to God),
you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.
You nullify the word of God
in favor of your tradition that you have handed on.
And you do many such things."

Our Scripture Reflection

In their hypocrisy the religious leaders and teachers failed to realize how sinful they were and how much they needed the Savior, Jesus Christ. It takes an act of humility to realize how petty I am and how great Jesus is. Only when I do will I receive His healing and forgiving Grace.

Food for your Journey

Sometimes I think God loves the ones who most desperately ache and are most desperately lost — his or her wildest, most messed-up children — the way you'd ache and love a screwed-up rebel daughter in juvenile hall. A 5-year-old girl or her mother in the mountains of Afghanistan, a junkie in L.A., Mother Teresa, you, me, children in Gaza — God created us all and loves us and brings us home, into what may be the first shalom we have ever had the chance to experience.

—Anne Lamott, quoted by Agnieszka Tennant, "'Jesusy' Anne Lamott," Christianity Today, January 2003, 58.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and

invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen