

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 7:1-23

WHEN BIBLICAL PRACTICES TURN SINFUL

Reread Mark 7:1-23

'...the heart... our heart is the issue...our primary problem is us...'

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

When biblical truth is blurred with spiritual tradition it becomes unbiblical.

'...the 'pretenders' are accusing the 'authentic' believers of being 'pretenders'...'

How did the Pharisees take that which was biblical and by adding to it eventually make it unbiblical? _____

Do you ever do this? How? _____

We may experience hypocrisy ourselves... but are we open to challenges of hypocrisy in ourselves? _____

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you find it easier to forgive yourself than to forgive others, or vice versa? _____

Why do you think that is? _____

What affects your spiritual heart; your soul according to verses 18-23? _____

Do you take the time to consider your own heart condition? How does that affect the way you view/judge others? _____

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Are you open to correction in your own life? Is this an indication of authenticity? _____

Are you balancing holding others accountable with checking the rhythm of your own heart? _____

What are some ways to assure that you are doing so? _____

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Will you pray that God will soften your heart?

Are you willing to ask for the difficult blessing of humility?

Will you, in the moment of doubt and judgement, turn to worship to right your heart?