

**PENTECOST 14 (2018)**  
**Mark 7**

**Mark 7:1–13** *When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.* (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)— then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

In the Name of Jesus.

Well, that's just the END OF THE WORLD, isn't it?! The disciples did NOT wash their hands—wash them properly—before they ate! END of the world, right?! NOPE! My dear ones! Even a germ-phobe like your poor pastor has to give it up! Unwashed hands are NOT the END OF THE WORLD! For there is only room enough in this world for ONE 'END OF THE WORLD.' And here it is; here HE is:

<sup>33</sup> And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole WORLD until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>35</sup> And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” <sup>36</sup> And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” <sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” <sup>1</sup>

When HE breathed His last leaving this world He proclaimed the happy END for all men of our huffing and puffing about each other, toward each other. He put HIMSELF in the place of OUR deserved END; and the next man; and the next; NO END to THAT!

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 15:33–39). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

So that even well before This King inaugurated The New Deal between God and the world, He was already doing all He could to tell the world—friend and foe, disciple and Pharisee!—‘Don’t...waste...YOUR BREATH! Making THE END OF THE WORLD--meaning GOD, JUDGMENT, CONSCIENCE!—about what WE, or ANY MAN outside Christ, the Holy One of God, brings to the table!’

Thank God for the Baptism He gave us! He calls to us: Unafraid! Begin each day behind the 8-ball, confessing that we are burdened by the Old Adam in us who ONLY KNOWS how to blow a lot of hot air about how others just don’t UNDERSTAND MY OWN mis-steps; there’s ALWAYS an excuse in our mouths; but that the mis-steps of OTHERS—oooohhh!, OTHERS plan and scheme and pour all their energy into stepping on OUR TOES, don’t they, my dear ones?

Until the End, we live with that sad, old lump; we die with him; THIS is HIS world. But since we have been washed with a washing that this world cannot recognize, prize—we are made bold to begin each day with that confession: that what WE bring to the table must die forever; and that what HE has brought to life—even IN THIS WORLD!—is OUR most glorious honor to proclaim, to live, to breathe out.

Let’s make this CLEAR! CHILDREN!  
WASH...YOUR...HANDS! With water! AND with soap! And rub vigorously! Daily and much! Like our confession of sins.

AND: LOVE the Lord your God with your whole BEING!

AND: ATTACH yourself to the next man even more than you are attached to your OWN precious self!

There really is nothing else to do with the Old Lump than to order him around, promise rewards for good behavior; threaten bad scheming. He's hopeless, what we've made of ourselves!

Which is why the Lord throws such a fit in our LAW-OVERFLOWING 'Gospel' lesson today! There ain't a HINT of pardon and cross and forgiveness and joy in this lesson! Unless we're GLAD to turn Jesus the Savior into another Moses the Killer.

For the NEW King is doing something NEW to a very OLD Arrangement: arresting the police, condemning the judges, imprisoning the jailers, executing the hangman.

NOT...OF...THIS...WORLD! To The End, overflowing sinners need to curb OTHER overflowing sinners. But that will end too, my dear ones. Your government-executed King guarantees it!

So much so, that He cannot WAIT to begin His reign: even in this world! He says to us:

‘Yes, correct one another. Correct one another: FIRST about any doubts any man has that GOD has only ONE REASON to EXIST: TO...SERVE...HIS...CREATURES!’

‘Then, when the next man—when the WHOLE WORLD is rejoicing in Who and What God is and HIS entire to-do-list—

‘If the next man is relying too much on anything, anyone, BUT the Father of our Christ—raise HIM! Save HIM! RENEW him! REMOVE HIM from the world; or remove what of this world has its claws into him!’

‘And if the next man is hurting you, or another next man, correct him; RESCUE HIM from ANY DOUBT that A Child of God is a Child of God because ALL God’s Children bear with one another, pardon one another, pray for one another, intercede for one another! As our King and Christ and Teacher and Savior and Holy One and Leader has blazed the trail to heaven and calls out still FOLLOW ME!’

‘Then, if the next man needs you to pull back, gently, his hands gone awry, his feet gone astray, his eyes, his mind, his

mouth detoured into the ditch: well, we've all got our work cut out for us, don't we?!

There was a part of your poor pastor that got nervous again about reading the Ephesians Five lesson in church today. Because I've been so shell-shocked by the screeching and screeching of this world!

'Submit yourselves to one another in Christ! WIVES, SUBMIT to your husbands, as to the Lord! The husband is the head of the wife!' And so on....

Read that to my little darlings at LSU and I'll have a meeting with Human Resources within the hour; the Dean; the Provost?

But you **MUST** see how Saint Paul does what he **DOES!** Even I **CAN** see it!

When he wraps up his counsel of men loving their wives and wives respecting their husbands, he ends this way: This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Paul is no new Moses, any more than is his Master Jesus. And Saint Paul has NO interest in falling into the muck and mire of this world, where WOMEN insist on DEMOTING themselves to the role of servant, the role of MEN; and where MEN insist on PROMOTING themselves to the status of WOMEN. The MAN is crown of Creation; but the WOMAN is the crowning jewel!

The APOSTLE of Jesus Christ was not arrested and deputized by the Spirit of Jesus to lay down just another set of laws and regulations in this prison house of a world! Paul's sight was restored to preach the Gospel:

THE mystery of heaven and earth, God and man, is that the God Who is Man, the MAN Who is God, has FOR GOOD SUBMITTED Himself to the world, for the good of the world, for the life of the world! And from this dirty world, He washes clean a Bride for Himself, daily and much.

So the apostle figures that ANY back-and-forth between sinner and sinner, husband and wife, parent and child, employer and employee—ANY back-and-forth is blessed and moved from THIS world to the next, when everyone rejoices in the Gospel that belongs to everyone!

The Gospel that now says: before you apply the LAW to yourself or others, even for their GOOD!—rejoice, rise, live, BREATHE the New Breeze that has come from heaven to earth: Christ the Crucified King; King of a sinner kingdom; King come to save us from this world.

What greater guarantee could we ask for—we children of God!—that The Holy One has nothing better to do than to place Himself in service to the unholy? He gives us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink. Did y'all hear me? He gives US His Body to eat and His Blood to drink!

And that's not His last gasp! He pledges: This is for Y'ALL! AND, this is—My Body, My Blood—this is for MANY!

So: though even our good doctors tell us that washing our hands daily and much is good—and they need no BIBLE to tell them that!—

Are unwashed hands the end of the world? Naw; Christ is the End of THIS thing!

And is the next man's idolatry the end of the world? No.

The next man's lovelessness? C'mon!

The next man's injury to you? Your injury of the next man?

OH! To what HEIGHTS have we been raised, children of God?!!!! Oh, what the next man, what the WORLD, can receive, even from you and me in the Name of Jesus! Amen!