

Opener

1. What kinds of traditions were present in your family growing up?
2. Have you ever established a new tradition in your family or friend group? Why do you think people start traditions?

Discussion

1. Read Mark 7:1-13. What was important to the Pharisee's in this story and what was important to Jesus?
2. What had the Pharisee's done in this account to get the idea of purification all wrong?
3. On Sunday, Pastor Ray pointed out that it is odious to God when a religious ritual is exalted above a real relationship with God. Has there ever been a time in your life when you elevated religion over relationship? Talk about this idea.
4. The fault of the Pharisee's here was that they had nullified God's Word by their tradition. What example does Jesus use (Mark 7:10-12, Exodus 20:12) to prove this?
5. Talk about what a hypocrite is and how damaging it can be to live as one.
6. What kind of purity is Jesus really after in this story and in our lives? How can you pursue that purity?

