

marked

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

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Mark 7:1-30

- Jesus broke down the barrier of religious traditions not based on the Word of God. V.1-13
 - Live life in obedience to God's Word and not the traditions of man.
 - Traditions should never get in the way of what really matters to God.
 - Loving God and people matters more to Jesus than any religious tradition.
 - We are simply hypocrites if we say it and not live it out.

- Jesus broke down the barrier of erroneous thinking based on false teaching. V.14-23
 - What is inside your heart is revealed by what comes out of it.
 - It truly is a matter of who reigns in your heart.

- What counts in God's sight are your thoughts and actions, not what you eat.
 - Desiring to have a pure heart will keep you from doing the wrong things.
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- Jesus broke down the barrier of exclusivity and set into motion inclusivity. V.24-30
 - Jesus accepts everyone who demonstrates such persistent faith.
 - Jesus embraces everyone regardless of racial and social inequality.
 - Jesus wants His Church to reflect what heaven will look like.

NEXT STEPS:

- I will set aside any religious traditions or rituals, which are not biblical.

- I will study God's Word to make sure my thinking and my heart is in alignment with His.

- I will be intentional to welcome everyone God brings to His Church.



Lesson Aim: To learn to live marked by the identity and way of Jesus.

Prayer: Open in prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to be marked by Jesus.

1. **Read Mark 7:6-8.** Why do you think Jesus was so upset by what the Pharisees asked him?
2. How do we know if we are living according to the commands of God or are holding on to human traditions?
3. What are some traditions or rules that you have seen or experienced in your life that you felt were “man made”? How did you feel or respond?
4. **Read Mark 7:14-16.** What does Jesus mean when He says, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles them”? Is this referring to actions? Words?

5. Pastor Moises taught us that Jesus is who has the power and authority to break down any barrier either placed on or in your life. What is a barrier you currently have that needs to be broken down?
6. **Read Mark 7:20-23.** How can we protect our heart from the evils that can defile a person?
7. Pastor Moises taught us that being marked by Jesus means we should be aware of our actions, words, and faith. What is an area that you would like to focus on that will make you a better “Marked by Jesus” servant?
8. A “Next Step” from this past Sunday’s message was to be intentional, to welcome everyone God brings to His Church. What can we do to be “intentional” in welcoming people?

Spend some time together in prayer asking for strength in any areas of weakness you might have. Pray that God would show you any religious traditions or rituals that are not Biblical.

Weekly Memory Verse:

James 4:7. Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.