Trying Not To Be A Pharisee

Ken Chapman · Mark 7:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
- And we can say, I don't want to do what they did. In fact, we can say, I want to be better than that.
- But all of that carries with it certain inherent dangers. Dangers that we need to avoid. Dangers that the Pharisees sadly did not avoid.

1 They Found Fault Where There Was No Fault

Mark 7:1–2; Matthew 22:18; Luke 18:9–14

- They found fault, by the way, where there was no fault. But they found fault because they were looking for it with a magnifying glass.
- Jesus perceived their wickedness and said, Why do you test me, you hypocrites?
- They didn't come to him to learn. They didn't even come to him to receive bread and fish or some physical healing. They came to him to find fault with him.
- He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others.
- There is an absolute clear distinction between seeing someone slipping and falling and reaching out to them than in the attitude of the Pharisees who would make this road trip just to find something that they could criticize.

2 They Elevated Their Tradition To The Level Of Law

Mark 7:8–9; Mark 7:13

- They elevated their tradition to the level of law. And again, sometimes even above the law of God.
- For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men.
- Some human traditions are just wrong because they're wrong. They violate Scripture.
- Sometimes tradition can become wrong when it is elevated to the status of law.
- Traditions that are good, but we must remember that they're simply traditions.
- When we begin to elevate that tradition, we begin to lower the importance of the law of God. We'll set it aside. We'll reject it. And then finally we'll make it of no effect.

3 They Failed To Give Their Heart First To God

Mark 7:18–23; Matthew 23:25–26; Psalm 119:11

- They failed to give their heart first to God.
- What proceeds out of the heart is what corrupts the man. It's the heart.
- You can draw a line from every one of them back to their failure of step number one, giving their heart to God.

- You cleanse the inside, and the outside will take care of itself.
- Draw near to God. That's where it starts. It doesn't start fix your behavior, quit doing that, start doing that.
- Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you love God with all your heart? Then you'll open up His Word and see what He tells you need to do in order to be saved, and you'll gladly do that because you love Him first.

MY NOTES