

First Light

Take Every Thought Captive

Mark 7:1-23

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Most of our families have time honored traditions surrounding birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. Most are love-based and special to us and special to us because they connect us to each other in meaningful ways and help to define us as families and people.

In Mark 7 Jesus addresses another kind of tradition: traditions that come from man and not from God, but we make them equal to his word. That temptation still happens today. For some ungodly reason we allow our opinions about religious matters, social issues, political stances and more to become all important. People still confuse their strongly held opinions on religious matters, social issues and political preferences with Scripture. As Christians we are obliged to place God's word at the highest place of authority and importance in our lives and subjugate our opinions on other things to him and his word.

Jesus makes the point: "8You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions." 9 And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" And so we would not falsely conclude that he addressed only religious traditions, but all strongly held opinions, Jesus said: "13Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

As Christians we have committed to surrender all of our thinking to Jesus and his word. We say it, we believe it. Do we actually do it? Paul challenges us: "5we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Cor.10:5. Personal and family traditions are wonderful, but no tradition should be allowed to compete with the authority of the word of God. That is one of the things that makes followers of Jesus different from those who are not.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may I truly allow your word to reign supreme in my life and thinking. Please open my eyes when I get so wrapped up in causes that your word does not have the place in my life that it should. I confess that my pride blinds me to this and that I constantly need your word as the "lamp unto my feet." Amen