

**Vain Worship**  
**Mark 7:1-13**  
June 6, 2021

**1. The tendency of fallen man to elevate the tradition of men (1-5)**

**2. The fundamental sins behind the elevation of human tradition (6-13)**

**a.) Hypocrisy (6-8)**

**b.) Rejection of the word of God (9-13)**

*Next week: Mark 7:14-23*

*By Steve Sherman, Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, North Brunswick, NJ.*

## Discussion Questions

The following questions are designed to be used by parents in discussing the sermon with their children, but can be used by anyone in discussing the sermon with others:

1. What stood out to you in this sermon? Why?
2. What does “Sola Scriptura” mean?
3. Why do we wash our hands before eating? Why did the Jews in Jesus’ day wash their hands before eating?
4. What was “the tradition of the elders” (verses 3, 5)?
5. Was there anything wrong with the Jews doing a ceremonial washing of their hands before eating? Was it okay that some of Christ’s disciples did not do the ceremonial washing? Why? Compare Luke 11:37-38.
6. What is hypocrisy (verse 6)?
7. What example does Jesus give of how the scribes rejected God’s commandment in favor of their tradition?
8. Isaiah preached against people who worshiped God in vain. What is true, acceptable worship?

### Going Deeper:

These questions are designed for the believer to use in prayer with his/her Lord, and in discussion with brothers and sisters in the Lord:

1. How did this sermon challenge your thinking, or grow your understanding?
2. How was the condition of Judaism in Jesus’ day similar to the condition of Roman Catholicism at the time of the Protestant reformation?
3. Is there anything wrong with following traditions in Christian living and in the life of a church? Explain. When do traditions become a problem?
4. Why do hypocrites inevitably elevate human tradition to the level of God’s word?
5. Do you have any tendencies toward elevating the tradition of men over the commandment of God? How would you recognize this in yourself? How can you battle against this?
6. What are some of your least favorite instructions in the Bible that Christians are to obey? Do you sometimes create ways to excuse yourself from obeying these instructions, perhaps by employing some work-around or a fanciful interpretation? Explain.
7. How does the true God compare to the way the scribes and Pharisees conceived God to be?
8. What is the number one way you should be affected by this sermon this week?