

The literary structure of Mark 7:1-23

A. The Pharisees challenge Jesus on defilement: Mark 7:1-5

A. Pharisees/scribes saw the disciples' unwashed hands: ¹Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

B. Do not eat unless they wash/holding to traditions: ³For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, / holding to the tradition of the elders,

B¹. Do not eat unless they wash/holding to traditions: ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. / And there are many other traditions that they *hold to*, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.

A¹. Pharisees/scribes ask about the disciples' unwashed hands: ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

B. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their human traditions: Mark 7:6-13

A. Their hypocrisy/Scripture text from the Prophets on honoring God: ⁶And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, / as it is written, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

B. Leave the commandment of God: ⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

B¹. Set aside the commandment of God: ⁹And he said to them, "Well have you set aside the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"

A¹. Scripture texts from the Law on honoring parents/their hypocrisy: ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' / ¹¹But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)— ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

A¹. Jesus on true defilement: Mark 7:14-23

A. Understand: ¹⁴And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand:

B. What goes in from without: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him,

C. What comes out from within: but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."

A¹. Do you understand? ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding?"

B¹. What goes in from without: Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled, *cleansing all foods?*"

C¹. What comes out from within:

- a) Defile:** ²⁰And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him.
- b) Evil thoughts:** ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts,
- c) Six evils (plural):** sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness,
- c¹) Six more evils (singular)** deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.
- b¹) Evil things:** ²³All these evil things come from within,
- a¹) Defile:** and they defile a person."