

Mark 7 : 1-13. Study Mark 7 : 1-23—Memory Verses, 5, 6.

Golden Text—For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink ; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—Romans 14 : 17.



1 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault.

3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash *their* hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

4 And *when they come* from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables.

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands ?

6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esai'as prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.

7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups : and many other such like things ye do.

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10 For Mo'ses said, Honour thy father and thy mother ; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death :

11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Còr'ban*, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me ; *he shall be free*.

12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother ;

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered : and many such like things do ye.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The scribes and Pharisees pretended to be very holy ; but, although they obeyed some of the Commandments and were careful not to work on the Sabbath, and made long prayers in the synagogues and even on the corners of the streets, it was all a pretence, for they were very sinful men.

Cleanliness was one thing to which the scribes and Pharisees paid a great deal of attention. They washed their hands every time they entered a house, before eating, and often besides, and they were also very careful about the washing of their dishes and pots and tables. And they considered that people who did not pay strict attention to these things were committing sin. So

they came to Jesus one day, and complained that His disciples were eating food without having washed their hands. "If they are really what they pretend to be", said they, "they should know that the laws of the Jews teach this to be very sinful."

Jesus answered the Pharisees very sadly. "The prophet Isaiah spoke truly, when he said, 'God's people honor Him with their lips, while their hearts are far from Him.' " Their worship was not true worship, when they taught and obeyed the commandments of men instead of the commandments of God. And they had, and had forgotten God's important commandments, for their own