

March 8, 2020

Theme: Lent (Week Two) — Why?

Scriptures: Mark 7:5

So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "**Why** are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"

Sermon Title: A Rule For Its Own Ruliness

Sermon in a Sentence: Rules too often become an end in themselves, and we forget to ask what kind of world are we creating with those rules?

Call To Worship

ONE: Sing to the Lord a new song!

ALL: Let the song we sing shape our lives.

ONE: Offer a prayer of gratitude!

ALL: Let the thankful requests align us with God.

ONE: Share the bread of reconciliation!

ALL: Let the meal reveal our hospitality.

ONE: Become the people God has called you to become.

ALL: Let our worship begin!

Prayer of Confession: In this prayer of confession, O Lord, we acknowledge where we have fallen short. The ways of Jesus are not easy, and too often our convictions cannot be found in our daily lives. We might know a list of rules or rattle off a few commands, yet our lives do not represent Jesus and his love. May your mercy and forgiveness provide us the inspiration needed to change. This we request in the name of Christ. Amen.

9am Words of Absolution: Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ - the one crucified, buried and raised from the dead - we have found forgiveness. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Background: Simply put, a rule for the sake of a rule has no holy or sacred outcome. Rules are not necessarily bad if there is a purpose, but too often we have allowed religion to become a system of regulations and prescriptions that might sound all holy, but are incapable of generating/ yielding holiness - the creation of life and world that represents Jesus. Why are his disciples not washing their hands? Simply put, this religious practice will produce a religion of the clean hand and nothing more. Symbols and rituals can be helpful in reinforcing a certain idea or ideal, but we often forget or lose sight of why it was helpful in the first place.

Key Words/Phrases: Rituals, practice, ordinances, precepts,

It points to..., teaches, reinforces, shapes

Change, remake in the image, alter, reorient

Lose sight, forget the purpose,

Holy, sacred, creating me in the likeness of..., a changed life, a transformed world

Video/Images:

Music:

9:00

Be Thou My Vision

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart (oldie) — probably on the piano

11:00

The Change by Steven Curtis Chapman (oldie)