

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



**Wednesday August 28 for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Loving God, we thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Help us to humbly welcome your Word that you have planted in our hearts. Help us also to be doers of your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

### **Mark 7:1-23**

1 Now when the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,<sup>a</sup>

2 they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

3 (For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands,\* keeping the tradition of the elders.

4 And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles [and beds].)

5 So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders\* but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”

6 He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:<sup>b</sup>

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

7 In vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines human precepts.’

8 You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

9 He went on to say, “How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition!

10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and ‘Whoever curses father or mother shall die.’<sup>c</sup>

11 Yet you say, ‘If a person says to father or mother, “Any support you might have had from me is *qorban*”<sup>\*- (meaning, dedicated to God),</sup>

12 you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.

13 You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things.”

14 <sup>d</sup> He summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand.

15 Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

[16]<sup>\*</sup>

17<sup>\*- e</sup> When he got home away from the crowd his disciples questioned him about the parable.

18 He said to them, “Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile,

19 <sup>†</sup> since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

20 “But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles.

21 <sup>‡</sup> From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder,

22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.

23 All these evils come from within and they defile.”

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In the Gospel, Jesus lists 13 examples of ways we need to cleanse our hearts. Which ones are the greatest challenge for you?
2. What are examples of lip service that we can give to God?
3. What are the characteristics of a pure heart? How do we go about cultivating one?

## Commentary

After listening to John’s Bread of Life discourse during the last five weeks, we now return to Mark’s Gospel. This week’s excerpt centers around one of the many 600+ human traditions that Jewish leaders have added to the Law given to Moses. In time, these human traditions will become as important as God’s Law. The tradition in question in this Gospel is “ritual hand-washing” done before eating. Ritual washing is performed very carefully following strict rules. Unfortunately, it will gradually become

identified with inner holiness. When questioned why his disciples disregard this important tradition of their ancestors, Jesus answers that holiness involves a lot more than ritual washing. It entails a lived faith which responds to God's Word and cooperates with God's forgiving, cleansing grace. Impeccably washed hands are no substitute for a clean heart. What Jesus seeks is a heart turned toward him. Of the Pharisees, he says: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." In the final verses of this week's Gospel, Jesus says that defilement does not result from dirty hands but rather from a dirty heart where evil schemes are hatched. Jesus gives 13 examples

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom  
Wednesday, Aug 28 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Aug 28, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618  
Passcode: 280607