Theology

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**Who is Jesus and what is the Reign of God?**

In the Christian and Hebrew scriptures, there are some object, place and person, labeled "unclean,” Regarding food, the Israelites forbade eating certain animals. When Peter saw the contents of the leaf dropped from heaven and was told to eat of these animals, he replied, "I have never eaten anything common or unclean”(“Enduring Word Bible Commentary Mark Chapter 7,” n.d.). Paul wrote twice to communities where some members considered some foods proscribe and permissible. The Pharisees became deeply resentful that Jesus and his followers had eaten with their "unclean" hands. Jesus condemned the Pharisee's concern with the cleanliness of the "outside" of the cup. Jesus himself was surprised by the Pharisees when he "declared all foods clean". Regarding the physical body, the priests in Leviticus are estimated to inspect and state whether some persons are "clean" and very suitable to worship and stand or if they are "unclean" and thus excluded. Much care is paid to the body's surface and skin, but also to its perfection as a condition for entree to holy tasks and places(“Enduring Word Bible Commentary Mark Chapter 7,” n.d.). Regarding Jesus, the solemn acts of this prophet included the exodus of "unclean" spirits. Woman in Mark 5:24-35 is not unclean. Although the daughter of Jairus, who died when Jesus came(*Gospel-of-Mark-Christian-Standard-Bible-CSB-Sampler.pdf*, n.d.), was unclean and everyone who touched her would also become unclean, because death is one of the fathers of impurity. Ancient Jews carried out extensive ritual laundering. The water that Jesus turned into wine was in jars preserved there for purification. Adhering to the traditions of the elders Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way. Whatever they bring from market they first wash it and then it. This was extra authorized allocation of spiritual leaders from Jerusalem, who came to assess the ministry of Jesus. They saw a prior allocation in Mark 3:22 and proclaimed cruel criticism against Jesus. They already decided and made up their mind against Jesus. They did not rate Jesus against the scale of the Word of God. They assessed him against their religious traditions(*Gospel-of-Mark-Christian-Standard-Bible-CSB-Sampler.pdf*, n.d.).

Written law was honored by Judaism at that time. There was also oral law, which was codified, but human interpretations and tradition were written highly in written law. Oral law was more honored than written law during Jesus time. One of the greatest contradictions between unclean and clean happens in chapter 7 of the Gospel of Mark. Pharisees, supposedly clean, descended from Jerusalem to find error with Jesus and his followers. Jesus not only rejects their judgment, but he clarifies that there is nothing that can make a person unclean; but evil in the heart will lead a man away from God and it will make him unclean. Pharisees, who believe they are clean, are in fact unclean. Jesus wishes them to see this, because people who think that they are unclean will return to Jesus. Jesus travel to Sidon and Tyre which were the unclean regions. The Syrophenician woman that Jesus met was unclean according to Jewish tradition but because of her great faith she was clean according to Jesus. In our society the unclean is not who looks dirty, who wears torn clothes. But unclean is the one who is hypocrite and have no faith. The person whose behavior with others is not good, who feels superior to others and feels disgust for poor people is unclean. In short, a sinner is unclean man in the society. As Jesus said unclean is one who is alienated with God or have no faith is unclean man. Cleanness of soul and mind is important than physical cleanness.

**References**

Enduring Word Bible Commentary Mark Chapter 7. (n.d.). Retrieved November 20, 2019, from https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/mark-7/

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