

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Broken rules or Broken hearts – Mark 7

1. Read v1. What can you remember about Jesus' previous encounters with the Pharisees and scribes?
2. Read v1-5 what were the religious leaders (the scribes and the Pharisees) concerned about?
3. Why do you think Jesus calls them hypocrites? What does it mean to worship in vain?
4. Can you think of any areas in your own life, or in the life of our church where we may honour God with our lips but not with our hearts? V7
5. The religious leaders put human teachings and traditions above God's word. Where are we tempted to do the same thing? What steps can you take to avoid following their example? Take some time to pray about this. You may also like to read Psalm 25.
6. Jesus says it's not the things outside us that defile us. Where does defilement come from? V20-23
7. How does it help us to know the true nature of our hearts? You may like to read Proverbs 3:5-6
8. Why does the woman Jesus meets in v24-30 have no claim on the Jewish messiah?
9. How would you describe her approach to Jesus? Why is she rewarded?
10. Read Isaiah 35:3-6. How does this prepare us for Jesus ministry to the deaf mute?
11. How do the two stories of Jesus meeting outsiders and defiled people help us with the problem identified in v23?

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TALK OUTLINE – 26 February 2012
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What is wrong with the world?

Point One – How can I be good enough for God?

- Renegotiation
- Hypocrisy
- It's not about keeping the rules

Point Two – Our problem is a heart problem

- Sins are just a symptom
- Jesus explains religion
- Jesus explains the world
- Jesus explains me

Point Three – Jesus came to defiled people