

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any ways you have let go of the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions? Do you identify with any of the following? If so, how? Or how have you observed these dynamics played out in people around you?

* Do you ever try to figure out how close you can get to sin without actually sinning?

* Do you believe there is a ritual that makes you right with God while removing your responsibility to make things right with others?

* Do you feel more guilty about missing church than mistreating someone at work?

* Are you banking on the myth that God has short-term memory loss?

2. The Kingdom of God is near - and everyone is invited to participate in it! As you reflect on this message, what is your next right step in your walk with Jesus?

MESSAGE NOTES

The Rest Of The Story // Week 4

One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.) **Mark 7:1-3**

So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony." Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition." Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition.

*For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others." **Mark 7:5-13***

5 important questions:

1. Do you ever try to figure out how close you can get to sin without actually

_____?

2. Do you believe there is a _____ that makes you right with God while removing your responsibility to make things right with others?

3. Do you feel more guilty about missing _____ than mistreating someone at work?

4. Are you banking on the myth that God has short-term _____ loss?

5. What does _____ require of me?

