

Do or Done? That is the Question.

Scripture: Mark 7:1-23

Also: Mark 10:45; Romans 3:10, 23; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 6:23; 3:20; 7:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21;

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
 2. Read Mark 7:1-23. This passage discusses the way the Pharisees, who would have been considered exemplary religious people, viewed rule-following as the means of a right relationship with God. The main idea in the sermon is that our salvation isn't produced by what we DO but by what Jesus has already DONE.
 3. If we think that our salvation is based on what we do, it is a natural next step to tend towards legalism (where following "the rules" becomes the way to salvation).
 - Do you have any tendencies toward legalism?
 - How would you recognize these tendencies in yourself?
 - How would you fight against them?
 - What add-on rules and rituals do you impose on young people or new converts who want to know God?
 - When does a personal conviction cross the line into legalism?
 4. Which activities/rituals in our church can be done as an external show rather than as a true act of worship? (Please list them!)
 - Which of our church's practices are long-held traditions, but aren't actually based in Scripture?
 - "We've always done it this way" a legitimate way for a church to determine what should be done in the future? If not (and it's not), what is?
 - Traditions aren't inherently bad; what makes a tradition good?
 5. What is the remedy for trying to follow a list of traditions or rules as a means of gaining or maintaining a right relationship with God?
 - Why is "trying harder" (pray more, read the Bible more, do more good works, etc) inadequate and even counterproductive?
 - How does "trying harder" undermine the Good News found in Jesus?
 - How do you sometimes inadvertently promote the "try harder" message? (Think it through in different relationship settings: spouse/kids/family, friends, co-workers, neighbors).
- ***Spend some time celebrating that Jesus has already done the work to save us!***