

# **Missing God's Heart**

"Case For Christ" Series, (A Study of Mark's Gospel, part 24)

Insights from Mark 6:53 - 7:1-23

May 1st, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

## **Insights from Mark 6:53-56**

(John 8:12, John 1:4-5, 9-13)

### **Limited understanding ...**

- **prompts ...**

(Mark 1:14-15, Mark 2:9-11, John 1:9-13)

- **prompts ...**

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

### **1. Our values are seen in our ...**

(1 Samuel 16:7)

### **2. Legalism & Hypocrisy causes ...**

(John 5:39-40)

### **3. From our thoughts ...**

(Romans 12:2, Proverbs 4:23, Philippians 4:8-9)

### **4. Forms, freedoms and feelings shouldn't determine ...**

(Psalm 19:14, Psalm 62:1-2)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our first week of our nine week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

Since this is our first meeting this small group season, let's try and share one or two things that most of the group might not know about us :).

In Mark 6:53-56, Jesus and the disciples had a boat ride and got off on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Speaking of a boat ride, what was a memorable boat ride, or flight or some other form of travel that you enjoyed?

Was there any traveling experience that you didn't particularly enjoy? If so, why not?

In Mark 7, the religious leaders were concerned that Jesus' disciples didn't wash their hands before having lunch which led to Jesus sharing what does defile a person and what doesn't.

Speaking of eating lunch, what is your typical lunch during the week?

What is one of your favorite places to eat in San Diego?

In Mark 7, we read how the religious leaders were overly focused on their rules.

Sometimes rules or guidelines can become too much of a focus and we can miss what God is wanting us to focus on. But that doesn't mean that rules are not helpful.

Speaking of helpful rules or guidelines, since this is our first meeting of this small group season, what are some helpful rules or guidelines as we meet together, study God's Word together and discuss some insights together?

In Mark 7, we saw how the tradition of ceremonial hand washing was something that the religious leaders focused on. Sometimes traditions can become too rigid and can actually form a framework for the only way we recognize God at work.

But, traditions if they don't form a rigid framework for our lives can be positive and meaningful.

Speaking of traditions, what was one of your favorite traditions that you can remember growing up ... either related to a holiday or just day to day?

## **Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:**

Let's read the two key passages from last Sunday. (Mark 6:53-56 and Mark 7:1-23)

After reading these passages and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

1. Throughout the gospel of Mark and the rest of the Bible, we see that God's heart is all about helping people experience more and more freedom. Let's read a few verses that emphasize God's desire for His people to experience more and more freedom. Galatians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17, John 8:36, John 8:32, Romans 8:1-2, Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18, Psalm 118:5

While God desires for us to experience more freedom, He also encourages us to follow His guidelines and not 'be free' to just go with our impressions or cultural norms.

How do the following verses about God's freedom and blessings as we follow Him, reinforce this sometimes surprising paradox? Mark 8:34-35, Matthew 23:11-12, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Matthew 11:28, Romans 6:18

From these verses, which one or two stands out that is more helpful for you to remember or one that might need more reflection? How have you experienced more freedom in Christ lately?

2. One of the insights from last Sunday was the importance of what we think about. Let's read the three verses that were shared: Romans 12:2, Proverbs 4:23, Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing how important what we choose to think about, God encourages us to meditate on His Word. What insights can we highlight from the following verses regarding meditating on God's Word: Psalm 1:2, Psalm 119:97, Joshua 1:8, Job 22:22, Psalm 37:31, Psalm 40:8, Psalm 119:11,15, 23, 78, 99,148

What are some ways we can develop the habit of meditating on God's Word more often?

3. Something powerful to meditate on is the truths related to the Lord's Supper or Communion that we shared together last Sunday. Let's read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in our lives: 1 Peter 2:22-25, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 15:12-17

What catches your attention from these verses that is helpful to remember as we reflect on taking the Lord's Supper?

## **Wrapping Up:**

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?