

# PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

## LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



**Sermon Date: 12/07/2020**

**Text(s): Mark 7:1–23**

**Sermon Title: An Inside Out Solution**

**Preacher: Rev Jason Phua**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

#### **Mark 7:1–23 (ESV)**

**1** Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem,

**2** they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

**3** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders,

**4** and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.)

**5** And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

**6** And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

**7** in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

**8** You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

**9** And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

**10** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’

**11** But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban” ’ (that is, given to God)—

**12** then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother,

**13** thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

**14** And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand:

**15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”

**17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

**18** And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him,

**19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

**20** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.

- 21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,  
**22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.  
**23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”



### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. What were some of the traditions or rituals you were asked to observe as you were growing up, whether at home or at school? Were any of these traditions superstitious in anyway?**
- 2. God commanded Aaron and his sons serving as priests to wash their hands and feet before they enter the Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle) in Exo 30:20–21. It wasn't meant to be a ritual to be practiced by every Jew, every single day, but the Pharisees made it such. Let's talk about some of the traditions and rituals we have at church. Can you identify one or two traditions and rituals we keep at church? Do you know the reasons for these traditions and rituals?**
- 3. The preacher suggested asking ourselves 2 questions about the traditions we keep. First, have we checked the origins of these traditions? Where did they come from? How were they developed? Second, do these traditions help us to be better disciples of Christ or do they distract us and even make us irreverent to God? What are some traditions you still keep today, whether they be cultural traditions, family traditions or church traditions? Let's talk about these traditions in the light of these 2 questions.**

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. Coming back to the passage in Mark 7, we see that Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for turning the teachings of men into doctrines of God! They cast aside the commandments of God in favor of their own teachings and traditions. The preacher explained that doctrines can be defined as sound teachings. How is it possible for the religious authorities who have the desire to serve God end up valuing their religious laws above God's commandments, and even claim that their own teachings are sound teachings?**

2. Finally, Jesus dealt with the heart of the matter which is the matter of the heart. The hearts of the Pharisees and the religious authorities were not right with God. That explained their forsaking the Word of God in favour of their own traditions and teachings. What kind of heart can lead us to do the same? What is God's solution to this problem of the heart?



**REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to experience a true inside-out transformation as we surrender our hearts and our lives to Christ.
- Pray for the friends in your LG, pray for one another to encounter Christ on a daily basis in order that we might become more and more like Christ.
- Pray for the churches in Singapore to have a stronger witness in Singapore and beyond in the days to come.