

Sermon Message for July 7/8, 2018 | Pastor Dennis Keating  
**THE REAL JESUS! | His Fearless Challenge**  
Mark 7:1-23 (p. 857)

**THEIR FUNDAMENTAL →** Emphasizing \_\_\_\_\_ over  
**ERROR** \_\_\_\_\_.

**TO AVOID IT ...**

1. Recognize the authority of God's \_\_\_\_\_ over Church \_\_\_\_\_.  
(7:5; 1 Cor. 11:2)

**THE POINT →** Religious traditionalism always shows itself in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Col. 2:16)

2. Focus on our \_\_\_\_\_ commitment over our \_\_\_\_\_  
of rituals. (7:6)

**THE POINT →** Performance-based religion always shows itself in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matt. 26:27-28; 1 Sam. 16:7)

3. Teach \_\_\_\_\_ standards over \_\_\_\_\_ rules.  
(7:7-13)

**THE POINT →** Following man-made rules always \_\_\_\_\_ of  
God's Word.

4. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word over \_\_\_\_\_ of the law.  
(7:14-23)

**THE POINT →** Demanding the letter always \_\_\_\_\_ the senses to the \_\_\_\_\_  
of God. (Matt. 23:23-24)

**OUR CHALLENGE →** \_\_\_\_\_! (See Prov. 4:23; Jer. 17:9;  
Ezek. 36:26; Titus 3:5; Ps. 51:10)

**Questions for Personal Prayer and Reflection From the  
July 7/8, 2018 Sermon Message**

Read Mark 7:1-23 and review your outline notes before thinking and praying  
through the following questions.

The goal for this week is to evaluate how we're doing maintaining a proper focus  
before the Lord. To do this, we'll spend a few moments prayerfully considering each  
of the four points found in the outline.

1. Recognize the authority of God's Word over church traditions.

Consider how you're doing with this. Here are some areas where people tend  
to get tripped up: Music style, dress and appearance (of leaders, but also of  
worshippers), Bible translation used, eating and/or drinking while in a church  
service, etc.

Do you feel like you do a good job of filtering your preferences through a  
biblical lens? Why or why not?

2. Focus upon our heart's condition over our religious performance.

Consider how you are doing with this: What are some ways you practice  
Christianity? How often do you check to see if your heart is right before God  
before you do what you do? Is it ever okay to not do something simply because  
your heart is not in it? Why? How do you keep your focus of "being right before  
God" while living a life of "doing right before God"?

3. Teach the standards of God's Word over the rules of men.

Consider: What are some of the challenges you face trying to live this way?  
Do you think that Christians in America might be perceived differently if they  
did a better job of this? Why?

4. Keep the "spirit" of God's Word over the letter of the law.

Consider: This seems to be particularly difficult for some to do. Why is that? Is  
it easy or hard for you to do? Why is that? Can you think of any ways that you've  
seen others put the letter before the "spirit"? Would others say you do this?  
How so?

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*(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)*

**THEIR FUNDAMENTAL ERROR:** Emphasizing **external rules** over **internal values**.

*TO AVOID IT ...*

1. Recognize the authority of God's **Word** over Church **traditions**. (7:5; 1 Cor. 11:2)

"... hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you." 1 Corinthians 11:2

**THE POINT:** Religious traditionalism always shows itself in **legalism**. (Col. 2:16)

"... no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day;" Colossians 2:16

2. Focus on our **heart's** commitment over our **performance** of rituals. (7:6)

**THE POINT:** Performance-based religion always shows itself in **hypocrisy**. (Matt. 26:27-28; 1 Sam. 16:7)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." Matthew 26:27-28

"... for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

3. Teach **biblical** standards over **ecclesiastical** rules. (7:7-13)

**THE POINT:** Following man-made rules always **reduces the impact** of God's Word.

4. Keep **the "spirit"** of God's Word over **the letter** of the law. (7:14-23)

**THE POINT:** Demanding the letter always **dulls** the senses to the **heart** of God. (Matt. 23:23-24)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" Matthew 23:23-24

**OUR CHALLENGE:** **Watch your heart!** (See Prov. 4:23; Jer. 17:9; Ezek. 36:26; Titus 3:5; Ps. 51:10)

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life." Proverbs 4:23