



“Even the Dogs” **Mark 6:45-7:30**

⁴⁵Jesus immediately compelled his followers to get into the boat and go before him to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while He sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶And having taken leave of them, He went away to the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was in the midst of the sea, and He alone on the land; ⁴⁸and He saw them tormented in the rowing, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night (between 3am and 6am) He came to them walking on the sea, and intended to pass near them. ⁴⁹And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought it to be an hallucination, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw Him, and were troubled, and immediately He spoke with them, and said to them, 'Have courage! I AM[†]. Do not fear.' ⁵¹And He came into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. The disciples were completely dumbfounded. ⁵²For they hadn't understood about the loaves, for their hearts were hardened. ⁵³And having passed over, they came upon the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore, ⁵⁴and when they came forth out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him. ⁵⁵They ran around that whole region and began to bring upon cots those who were injured to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶And wherever He came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the weak in the marketplaces and were pleading with Him that they might touch even the fringe of His garment. And as many as touched it were saved.

¹After coming from Jerusalem, the Pharisees and some scribes gathered around Jesus. ²They saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, (that is, unwashed. ³for the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, 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.) ⁵The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "For what reason are your followers not walking according to the tradition of the elders, but are instead eating bread with defiled hands?" ⁶And He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied well of you hypocrites, as it is written, *'This people honors me with speech, but their hearts are far away from receiving me. 7They worship me in vain, passing along teachings that are commandments of mankind.'* (Is. 29:13) ⁸You give up the commandment of God and you cling to the tradition of mankind!" ⁹And He said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, *'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever speaks against father or mother must surely be put to death.'* (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Ex. 21:17; Lev 20:9) ¹¹But you say, if a man says to father or mother, 'The gift that you might have gotten from me is now something that I have promised to give to God later (that is Korban), ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making the word of God powerless by your tradition that you have handed down. You also do many other similar things." ¹⁴And He called the people to Him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There 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." ¹⁶["If anyone has

[†] The Personal Name of God: Greek: ἐγώ εἰμι - Hebrew: יהוה - English: YHWH or Yahweh - Exodus 3:14 - Septuagint: ¹⁴ καὶ εἶπεν ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Μωϋσῆν Ἐγώ εἰμι... - ESV: ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

* βαπτίζονται, βαπτισμούς from βαπτίζω (baptizō) - literally: baptizing (ritually washing) themselves and the vessels they use

ears to hear, Listen!"] § 17When He had entered the house and left the people, His disciples asked Him about the parable. 18He said to them, "So you are lacking understanding as well? Do you not comprehend that everything entering into a person from outside is not able to make him defiled, 19because it does not enter his heart, but his stomach, and goes out into the toilet?" (Thus He declared all foods purified.) 20He said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22desire for more things, evil ways, deceit, lust, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." 24From there He arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet He could not be hidden. 25But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit heard of Him and came and fell down at His feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged of Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27But He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs!" 28 But she answered Him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29He said to her, "Because of this answer, go your way! The demon has come out of your daughter." 30After returning to her home she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

6:45 *Why would Jesus compel the disciples to cross to "the other side" on their own?*

6:48 *What does it mean that Jesus intended to "pass near" them? (Exodus 33:19)?*

6:50 *What is the significance of Jesus stating "I AM"?*

6:51-56 *What is the relationship between the disciples not understanding and the people on the other side immediately recognizing Jesus?*

7:1-23 *Why would some rulers of Israel be coming from Jerusalem and why would Jesus quote Isaiah against them?*

7:1-23 *What made food "defiled" in first century Palestine?*

7:1-23 *What uncleanness is God concerned about?*

7:25-26 *What is astounding about the Greek woman's approach to Jesus and then Jesus connecting her to a dog?*

7:27-30 *What is remarkable about Jesus' response after she persists?*

§ This verse is omitted from most manuscripts. It is only contained in about four manuscripts, and is probably not original to Mark's writing. Most translations skip over verse 16 entirely.