

Gospel of Mark
Jesus' Archenemy
For the week of **February 19, 2017**

Apply today's message throughout the week by utilizing this Growth Guide individually, with your family, or in your group.

Full message available at myharvest.church/watch

GOAL: This week we take a look at how vain traditions impact us, those around us, and our relationship with God.

GET GOING:

1. Pastor Ron talked about healthy and unhealthy traditions and how unhealthy ones can quickly turn vain. In the past, what kind of traditions did you experience in the church? Were they good or bad?

2. This weekend we learned about vain traditions from Mark 7. What part of Pastor Ron's message do you never want to forget, and why?

3. Read verses 7, 8, 9, & 13 again. These verses describe a downward spiral of an unhealthy tradition becoming vain. Have you ever seen this happen in your own life or in the lives of others?

BONUS THOUGHT:

The Pharisees tried to live by hundreds of extra laws that weren't even in Scripture! This was their attempt to guard themselves from breaking God's Law, and in doing so, they thought of their manmade traditions as equally important as God's Law.

KEEP GROWING

4. Read Mark 2:18-22. Rather than regularly fasting, which the Pharisees used in an unhealthy way to show people they were "better than everyone else," Jesus and His disciples broke away from this vain tradition. Jesus then shares an interesting parable to explain His point.

- What stands out to you in Jesus' teaching?
- How do you think His teaching is related to the fasting issue?
- Jesus revealed a new way to think about old, vain traditions of His day. In what ways can you use God's Word to guard yourself against some vain traditions in today's culture?

5. Vain traditions focus on outward appearance rather than inward change. When we're embracing vain traditions, it's easy to act like we have it all together. But God wants to work on some things on the inside. What might God want to work on in your life that you don't show on the surface? What can you do this week to begin handing that over to God?

BONUS CHALLENGE:

Read Mark 8

Take some time to read Mark 8 in preparation for next week's message. As you read, pay attention to how Jesus breaks the norms of His day as He shares the Gospel and cares for people.

