

Religion verses Relationship – Mark 7:1-13

Group Notes

The key point from Sunday's sermon was the difference between how the Pharisees and the disciples related to Jesus. The Pharisees were all about rules and the outward appearance while the disciples were all about getting to know Jesus personally. It was a case of Religion verses Relationship.

As followers of Jesus we need to be on guard against drifting (which can be so easy!) from relationship with Jesus into just religion - following rules.

Read out the checklist below to help the group examine their own walk with God to see if there are areas where they may have strayed into religion.

- No sense of joy in life
- Church has become a chore
- Following Jesus has become a list of "shoulds"
- Fixation with minor things
- The need to keep up appearances around other believers
- Bad attitude towards the joy of others

Use some (or all) of the questions below to start discussion on how people are doing with their walk with God.

1. Are there areas of your walk with God where you have strayed into religion?
2. Are there times in the past when you have done it?
3. What did you do to get out of it?
4. Share ways that you have tried and tested that have helped you maintain a relationship and avoid religion.
5. Is there anything the group can do to help you stay in relationship with God?

Finally pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit and to have a fresh encounter with the God we follow.