

Mark 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables.

Analysis

Mark 7:4 This passage continues Mark's fast-paced narrative demonstrating Jesus' divine authority, miraculous power, and confrontation with religious establishment. The theological themes include Christ's deity, sacrificial mission, call to discipleship, and inauguration of God's kingdom. Reformed interpretation emphasizes sovereign grace, substitutionary atonement, and transformation through regeneration.

Historical Context

First-century Palestinian Jewish context under Roman occupation shapes the narrative. Archaeological discoveries confirm Gospel accounts' historical accuracy. Ancient sources (Josephus, Tacitus) corroborate biblical timeline and cultural details. Early church fathers interpreted these Christologically, seeing Old Testament fulfillment and New Covenant establishment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse reveal Christ's person and work in redemptive history?
2. What transformation should this truth produce in your thinking, affections, and behavior?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπό	ἀγορᾶς	ἐὰν	μὴ	βαπτίσωνται	οὐκ
And	when they come from	the market	G1437	G3361	they wash	not
G2532	G575	G58			G907	G3756
ἐσθίουσιν	καὶ	ἄλλα	πολλά	ἐστιν	ἃ	παρέλαβον
they eat	And	other things	many	there be	which	they have received
G2068	G2532	G243	G4183	G2076	G3739	G3880
κρατεῖν	βαπτισμοὺς	ποτηρίων	καὶ	ξεστῶν	καὶ	χαλκίων
to hold	as the washing	of cups	And	pots	And	brassen vessels
G2902	G909	G4221	G2532	G3582	G2532	G5473
καὶ	κλινῶν					
And	of tables					
G2532	G2825					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Matthew 23:25 (Parallel theme): Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Isaiah 1:16 (Parallel theme): Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Jeremiah 4:14 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

John 2:6 (Parallel theme): And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

James 4:8 (Parallel theme): Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Psalms 26:6 (Parallel theme): I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:

1 John 1:7 (Parallel theme): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Matthew 27:24 (Parallel theme): When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.