

Mark 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

Analysis

Mark 7:5 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

ἔπειτα ἐπερωτῶσιν αὐτὸν οἱ Φαρισαῖοι καὶ οἱ
Then asked him the Pharisees and G3588 G3588
G1899 G1905 G846 G5330 G2532

γραμματεῖς, Διατί οἱ μαθηταί σου οὐ περιπατοῦσιν
scribes Why G3588 disciples thy not walk
G1122 G1302 G3101 G4675 G3756 G4043

κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἀλλὰ
according to the tradition of the elders but G3588 G3862 G4245 G235

ἀνίπτοις χερσὶν ἐσθίουσιν τὸν ἄρτον;
with unwashen hands eat bread G449 G5495 G3588 G740

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:21 (Parallel theme): And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (Parallel theme): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Acts 21:24 (Parallel theme): Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.

Matthew 15:2 (Parallel theme): Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Galatians 1:14 (Parallel theme): And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

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