

Mark 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Analysis

He answered said Well has Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites as it is written This people honors me with lips but heart is far from me. Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13. Hypocrites hupokritai actors wearing masks. This people houtosho laos. Honors tima external show. With lips tois cheilesin verbal confession. But de contrast. Heart kardia inner reality. Is far from me apechei long distance separation. External religion without internal reality. Form without substance. Going through motions. Reformed theology emphasizes distinction between form and power of religion. Outward observance does not equal salvation. Circumcision of heart not just flesh. True faith internal transformation visible in life but rooted in heart. External conformity without internal change is hypocrisy.

Historical Context

Pharisees criticized disciples for eating without washing hands (tradition not Torah requirement). Jesus responds by exposing their hypocrisy. External ritual without heart devotion is empty. Isaiah condemned similar problem 700 years earlier same issue persists. Human religion tends toward externalism ritual tradition at expense of heart. Medieval church fell into same trap. Reformation emphasized internal faith external works flow from inner reality not produce it. Sola fide by faith alone external religion cannot save. Must be born again internal transformation. Modern church battles same issue church attendance religious activity without genuine conversion relationship with Christ.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What is difference between external religious observance and genuine heart devotion?
2. How does human religion tend toward ritual tradition at expense of true faith and what is remedy?

Interlinear Text

ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν αὐτῶν ὅτι Καλῶς
G3588 **and** G1161 **He answered** G611 **said** G2036 **their** G846 G3754 **Well** G2573

προεφήτευσεν Ἡσαΐας περὶ ὑμῶν τῶν ὑποκριτῶν ὡς
prophesied G4395 **hath Esaias** G2268 **of** G4012 **you** G5216 G3588 **hypocrites** G5273 **as** G5613

γέγραπται Οὗτος ὁ λαὸς τοῖς χείλεσιν με τιμᾷ
it is written G1125 **This** G3778 G3588 **people** G2992 G3588 **with their lips** G5491 **me** G3165 **honoureth** G5091

ἡ δὲ καρδία αὐτῶν πόρρω ἀπέχει ἀπ' ἐμοῦ·
G3588 **and** G1161 **heart** G2588 **their** G846 **far** G4206 **is** G568 **from** G575 **me** G1700

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Titus 1:16 (Parallel theme): They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Ezekiel 33:31 (Parallel theme): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

2 Timothy 3:5 (Parallel theme): Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

John 5:42 (Parallel theme): But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

John 15:24 (Parallel theme): If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

Acts 28:25 (Parallel theme): And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,