

## A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

**7** Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> *(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)*

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

<sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, ‘Honour your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>11</sup> But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ *(that is, an offering to God)*—<sup>12</sup> then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, <sup>13</sup> thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>17</sup> When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup> He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup> since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” *(Thus he declared all foods clean.)*

<sup>20</sup> And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord