

THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Gospel of Mark A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION SEVEN

Mark 7:1-8:10

Questions for Session Seven

1. Were Jesus' disciples really eating food with unclean hands? Why did the disciples *not* abide by the law and wash their hands prior to eating their food?
2. How do we define unclean hands in the twenty-first century? Do we give our hands more than a ceremonial washing? What have we learned from science and medicine that influence us to wash our hands prior to a meal?
3. What is more important: (1) *following the commands of God* or (2) *holding to our human traditions*? How do we most often set aside the commands of God and observe our own traditions in our lives? Give several examples.

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4. How did Jesus define what made someone unclean? What kinds of things came out of individuals that made them unclean according to vv. 21-22?

5. What kinds of things come out of us that make us unclean? How do we correct our *uncleanness*? In other words, what do we do about it?

6. In v. 24 why did Jesus want to keep secret the fact that he entered a specific house? What was the impact of the woman's nationality and/or cultural heritage on this story?

7. Explain the significance of Jesus' instruction to let the children eat? Why did the Syrophoenician woman reference the dogs under the table eating the children's crumbs? Explain in some detail.

8. What did Jesus do for the man in the region of the Decapolis? Why did Jesus sigh when he looked up to heaven? Does God hear our sighs when we pray?

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9. Why was Jesus compassionate regarding the large crowd, which had been with him for three days? Please explain in some detail.

10. What is the deeper meaning of the *number of loaves* available to feed the crowd?
What is the deeper meaning of the *number of baskets* full of broken pieces?

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