

## **“Measuring Genuine Spirituality”**

Jim Aiken – March 29, 2015

## **Discussion Questions – Life Groups “Measuring Genuine Spirituality”**

### **Introduction: Play games at church?**

*Mark 7 – disciples criticized for not following tradition*

Why were Pharisees so offended at Jesus’ disciples? Was their concern based on Old Testament scripture or tradition? Explain.

Old Testament Law – Scribes – Oral law = Mishnah

Example: washing hands before eating

If you grew up in church, were certain traditions practiced that were viewed as important as scripture—traditions that are no longer followed today?

Jesus quotes Isaiah

*Mark 7 – tradition trumps God’s command*

*Corban =*

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 29 to expose the hypocrisy of Pharisees and teachers of the law. Have you ever seen examples of hypocrisy among Christians or in the church? Explain.

*Mark 7 – the true source of sin*

Vs. 21 – “*out of men’s hearts come evil thoughts . . .*”

Can you think of any examples of “*Corban*” that people might practice today?

**Where’s your focus?**

Jesus declared all food “*clean*,” implying no food can make someone “*unclean*” in the eyes of God. Why was this so radical?

**What do you put into your mind?**

*Proverbs, Romans 12, 2 Corinthians 10*

Evil thoughts from our hearts cause us to sin, so where we focus our mind influences our behavior—good or bad. What areas in your life need more or less focus/attention? How will you change this week?

**Your behavior shows me what you believe**