

Mark 7-8

As we approach the hinge of Mark's gospel and Peter's confession it is worth reviewing what leads up to it. For each chapter briefly summarise what we see about who Jesus is and how we see it and how others react.

Ch	Jesus is...	Seen in	Reaction
1	<i>The Messiah who preaches the kingdom has come so people need to repent</i>	<i>Isaiah and John the Baptist Jesus fulfils Isaiah 40-43 in the wilderness Defeats evil spirit and heals many Cleanses leper</i>	<i>JtB recognises Jesus Disciples follow him Evil spirits recognise Jesus, people astonished</i>
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Mark 7v1-23 – Getting to the heart of the problem

This clash is about so much more than just tradition v Jesus. What is the clash really about? And why is that so significant?

What does that warn us about where traditions can lead?

What is Jesus far more radical diagnosis of the human condition?

What are the implications of that for the disciples, the early church and for us?

Mark 7v24-8v12 Insiders becoming outsiders and outsider insiders

What unites these incidents? And why is that significant?

What is offensive in v24-30? Is it what we think it is?

How do the above incidents highlight the unbelief of the Pharisees?

Mark 8v13-9v1 The Disciples Dilemma

What is Jesus challenging the disciples about in v14-21? What should they understand?

Why do you think Jesus undertakes to heal the man in 2 stages? What light do the passages either side of this one shed on it?

What do Mark's readers learn here about what it means to follow Jesus?

How is that both an encouragement and a challenge to us?