

Rev. Travis Panning

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Mark 7:1-23

- *Hey*
 - *Road hypnosis - when you drive from Wilber to Lincoln without even realizing that you are doing what you're doing.*
 - *It's scary to arrive in Lincoln with no memory of the trip.*
 - *But it's what happens when you have done something so many times in a repetitive manner. Your brain becomes adept at it, the neuropathways become stronger, and your brain does it automatically.*
 - *Tying your shoes. Other actions that can become in that category.*
- *You*
 - *How about worship?*
 - *How about our faith practices in general?*
- *Look*
 - *Jesus is dealing with the Pharisees again. They are the keepers and defenders of the law.*
 - *Now let's establish that the law is a good thing. It protects and preserves relationships between people.*
 - *And the law of Moses was a good thing. It was meant to establish a relationship between God and his people.*
 - *But by this point, was that what the law was doing? Was it protecting the relationship between God and his people?*
 - *The Pharisees were the result of 500 years of a deep dive into the law after the people had ignored it the previous 700.*
 - *They had ignored it and they had been exiled to Babylon, and now for the past 500 years they had explored it and devoted their lives to it. But now, it was so far on the other side of the pendulum that they were again defeating the purpose of the law.*
 - *The law was supposed to preserve and protect the relationships between God and them, and between them and others.*
 - *Jesus examples of how they are using the law to divide people.*
- *Do*
 - *Jesus did not come to abolish the law and the prophets. We're not going to throw them away. But he came to fulfill them. To bring them back to their intended purpose.*
 - *The movie Apollo 13. The scene where they need to keep the earth in the window.*
 - *That's what Jesus came to do, to get us to check the window again.*
 - *After 500 years, they had gotten off course because they hadn't checked. They thought that they were set in their course, and at first they were pointed the right way. But after 500 years, to not check is foolish.*
 - *That's what the church needs to do. Check the window and see if Jesus is still in the window.*