Do or Done? That is the Question.

Scripture: Mark 7:1-23

Also: Mark 10:45; Romans 3:10, 23; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 6:23; 3:20; 7:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21;

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. Read Mark 7:1-23. This passage discusses the way the Pharisees, who would have been considered exemplary religious people, viewed rule-following as the means of a right relationship with God. The main idea in the sermon is that our salvation isnâ€™t produced by what we DO but by what Jesus has already DONE.
3. If we think that our salvation is based on what we do, it is a natural next step to tend towards legalism (where following "the rules" becomes the way to salvation).
    - Do you have any tendencies toward legalism?
    - How would you recognize these tendencies in yourself?
    - How would you fight against them?
    - What add-on rules and rituals do you impose on young people or new converts who want to know God?
    - When does a personal conviction cross the line into legalism?
4. Which activities/rituals in our church can be done as an external show rather than as a true act of worship? (Please list them!)
    - Which of our church's practices are long-held traditions, but arenâ€™t actually based in Scripture?
    - "Weâ€™ve always done it this way" a legitimate way for a church to determine what should be done in the future? If not (and it's not), what is?
    - Traditions aren't inherently bad; what makes a tradition good?
5. What is the remedy for trying to follow a list of traditions or rules as a means of gaining or maintaining a right relationship with God?
    - Why is "trying harder" (pray more, read the Bible more, do more good works, etc) inadequate and even counterproductive?
    - How does "trying harder" undermine the Good News found in Jesus?
    - How do you sometimes inadvertently promote the "try harder" message? (Think it through in different relationship settings: spouse/kids/family, friends, co-workers, neighbors).

- ***Spend some time celebrating that Jesus has already done the work to save us!***