

Read Mark 7:9-13

9 Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition.

10 For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.'

11 But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. My money is "Corban."' Which means their money is a gift they promised to give to God and therefore they couldn't give it to help their parents.

12 In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents.

13 And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others."

What did Jesus say to the religious leaders (v. 9)? You don't pay attention to the commands of God in the Bible. You ignore them. Instead, you obey your own rules which you made up and are different from the Bible.

What did Moses say about our parents (v. 10)? He told us to honor our father and mother. And, if you say really bad things about your parents, you should be killed or put to death!

How can we honor our parents? Obey them without complaining. Talk respectfully about them especially behind their backs. Pray for them. Help them. Take care of them. Honoring our parents is the 5th commandment (Exodus 20:12).

What did Jesus criticize them for (vv. 11-12)? They were saying their money was "Corban." That means that all their money was devoted to God and they could not help their parents when they needed money because they had to spend it on the things of God. But that wasn't the truth. They had plenty of money. They just didn't want to give it to their parents. They wanted to spend it on themselves. They were selfish.

What effect did they have on the Bible by what they did (v. 13)? They make it look like the Bible wasn't true. The Pharisees were saying they didn't have to help their parents like the Bible says to do because they were obeying their own laws instead and dedicating their money to God. The Bible wasn't important to them.

Why do you think they were mean to their parents? They loved themselves and their money more than their parents. They were selfish and their hearts were hard.