

DEBBIE



DOWNER





Mark 7:1-23

1. On fault finding
2. Beneath fault finding
3. Beyond fault finding

Mark 7:1-23

¹ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.



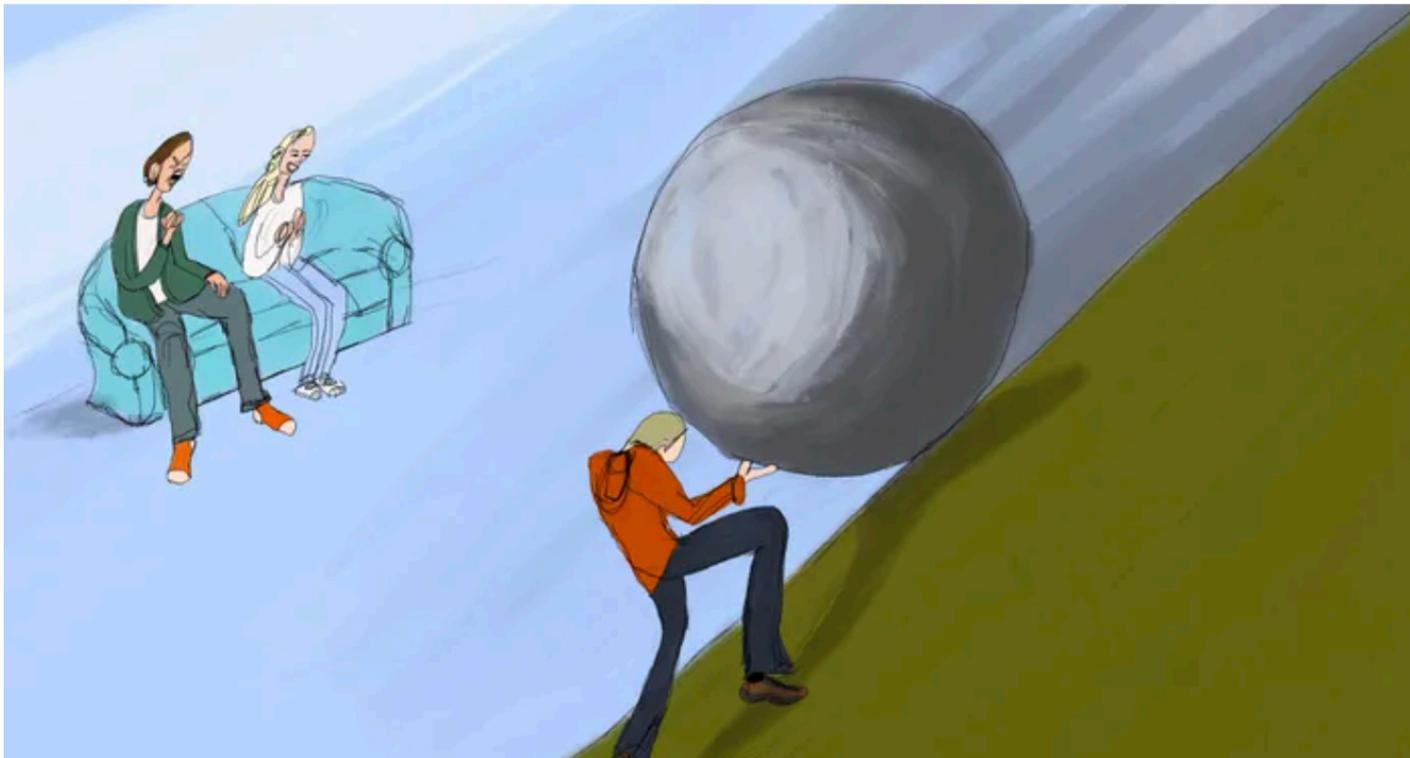
In 2026, We Are Friction-Maxxing



By Kathryn Jezer-Morton, a columnist for The Cut covering modern family life. ▼

JAN. 3, 2026

SAVE



Tech companies are succeeding in making us think of life itself as inconvenient and something to be continuously escaping from, into digital padded rooms of predictive algorithms and single-tap commands: Reading is boring; talking is awkward; moving is tiring; leaving the house is daunting. Thinking is hard. Interacting with strangers is scary. Risking an unexpected reaction from someone isn't worth it. Speaking at all — overrated. These are all frictions that we can now eliminate, easily, and we do.”

Mark 7:1-23

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Mark 7:1-23

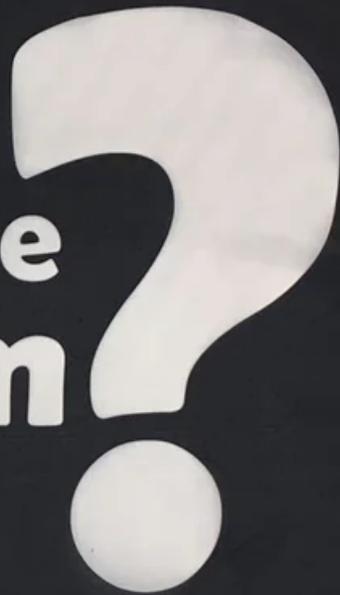
⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

**What is the
problem**



Mark 7:1-23

“Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

This kind of thing is known as legalism... Here is the irony: every time we add to the law of God, we inevitably subtract from it, because instead of putting our attention on the things that God is concerned about, human regulations cause us to lose sight of what concerns Him. We begin to major in minors. We begin to give our devotion to our own traditions, our own human regulations.”



R. C. Sproul, Mark, First Edition, St. Andrew's
Expositional Commentary (Orlando, FL: Reformation



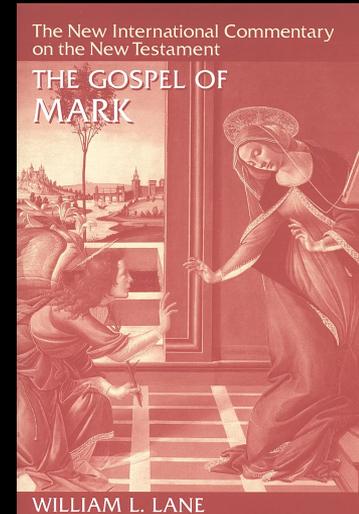


Mark 7:1-23

⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) ¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother.

In the hypothetical situation proposed by Jesus, if the son declared his property qorban to his parents, he neither promised it to the Temple nor prohibited its use to himself, but he legally excluded his parents from the right of benefit. Should the son regret his action and seek to alleviate the harsh vow which would deprive his parents of all of the help they might normally expect from him, he would be told by the scribes to whose arbitration the case was submitted that his vow was valid and must be honored.”

William L. Lane, *The Gospel of Mark*, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974), 251.



Mark 7:1-23

¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”





???

HIS FAULT

HER FAULT

THEIR FAULT

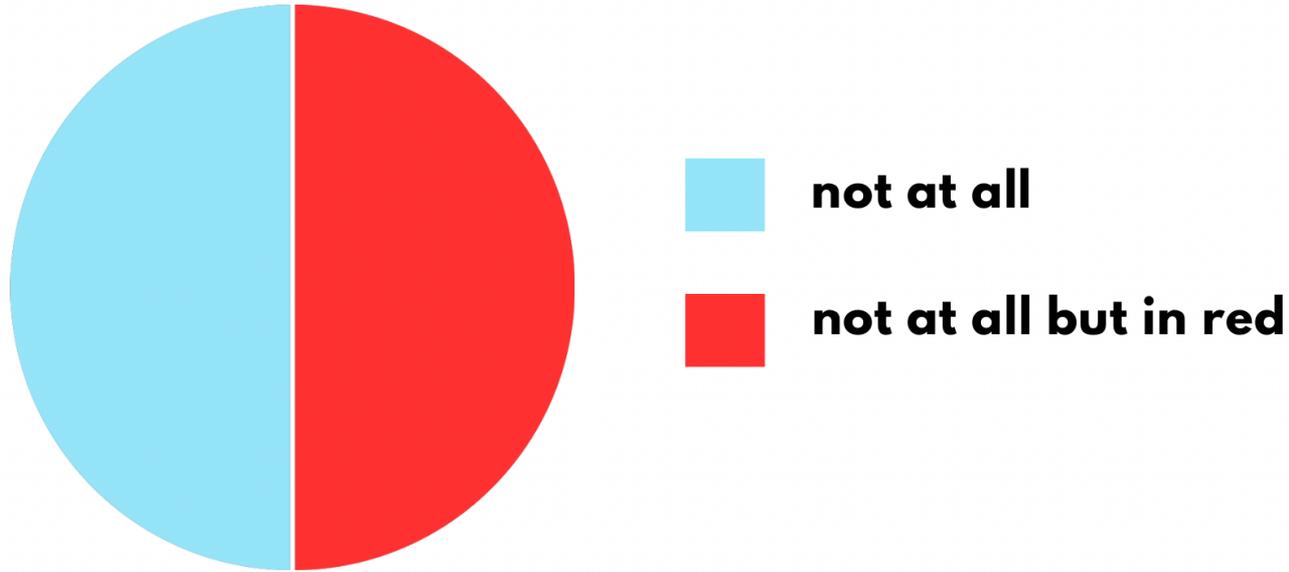
NOT ME



Relational fault finding
Political fault finding
Parenting fault finding
Theological fault finding
Performative fault finding
Leadership fault finding
Institutional fault finding
Generational fault finding

Dietary fault finding
Cultural fault finding
Economic fault finding
Moral fault finding
Social fault finding
Church fault finding
Habit fault finding
Self fault finding

How much I love unsolicited parenting advice



Mark 7:1-23

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¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

Mark 7

Mark 1
CRESCENDO

Mark 7

Mark 1
CRESCENDO

fever, various diseases, leprosy, paralysis, withered hand, unclean spirits (many), chronic bleeding, death...

Mark 7:1-23

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

Mark 7:1-23

²⁰ He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come — sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Don't be part of the problem.

**BE THE
WHOLE
PROBLEM.**



Luke 18:10-14

¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Luke 18:10-14

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Mark 15

Mark 7

Mark 1

CRESCENDO



Mark 15:29-32

²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no [fault] to be [fault] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



Wake Up Dead Man

— A Knives Out —
MYSTERY



Ephesians 5:14

This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."



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Friction-maxxing is not simply a matter of reducing your screen time, or whatever. It’s the process of building up tolerance for “inconvenience” (which is usually not inconvenience at all but just the vagaries of being a person living with other people in spaces that are impossible to completely control) — and then reaching even toward enjoyment.

“Only good can come out of loving and forgiving your enemy. Whenever I’m scrolling on social media, I get pissed and angry, and the last thing I want to do is extend grace and forgiveness in those moments. Yet it’s the thing that I most need to do, and it’s the thing that the world needs more of, especially right now.”

Rian Johnson,
Director of *Wake Up Dead Man*

<https://www.ncronline.org/culture/very-catholic-knives-out-rian-johnson-talks-priests-forgiveness-and-complicated-faith>

Gospel Application

Who am I most tempted to criticize right now?

