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Bible as Literature

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**Outline**

**Thesis:** The Pharisees portray a group that doesn’t want to progress into the new covenant from Jesus. They stick more to religious rituals more than the heart behind the Mosaic Law.

**Themes:**

The old covenant with God and the Israelites

A new covenant through Jesus

Religious Rituals/Sacrifice not being necessary anymore—It’s now about serving others and social justice

**Evidence:**

-The Pharisees question why Jesus is picking grain for his friends—Jesus responds that the law was made for humankind: “The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on Sabbath?”(Mark 3.24)

-The Pharisees conspire to kill Jesus because he is breaking the law of the Sabbath by healing someone: “They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath…The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him”(Mark 3.2-6)

-They ask why they eat without washing their hands (a Jewish tradition) - Jesus responds with another quote about the heart: “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands” (Mark 7.9)

-Jesus responds with motif about the heart behind the law: “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Mark 7.6)

Mark 12.14 Pharisees ask Jesus about paying taxes, trying to trap him. Jesus responds: ““Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s””(Mark.12.17)

**Conclusion:** The Pharisees are portrayed as hypocritical rule followers that refuse to progress to the new covenant of Jesus, they are described as obeying the technicalities of the Mosaic Law, but don’t understand the heart behind it.