

‘Shot through the heart’



Reading:

Mark 7:1-16

Introduction:

- Modern society and especially social media has predisposition to criticize - What's your reaction and experience of that?
- If you are honest, what is the measure or rule that you judge others by?

WORD:

The context:

The Pharisees had 613 written commandments to live by, and these were then emblesished and fleshed out by countless intricate laws, verbally passed down from teacher to teacher. Trying to obey every specific rule would have been relentless.

For them, this was the focal point of their discipleship. It was their 'measure' or 'rule' by which they judged the authenticity of other peoples faith. This is the background to Jesus encounter:

Read Mark 7:1-16

- What action do the Pharisees challenge?
- Where does their motive lie?
- How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees? (see also Matt 23:27-28)
- Why did Jesus use the word 'hypocrite' to describe their actions?
- How does this passage challenge me?

PRAYER:

What prayer response does today's reading and discussion invite?

ACTION:

Is Jesus challenging me to respond in a specific way? What action is he inviting me to take?