



**"Blind guides of the blind." —**

Recovering from Religion

**RED:** Words from Jesus that will change your life, Part 3

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**RED WORDS...** points beyond and surprisingly heals from the damage of religion.

**JESUS & RELIGION** — a sampling of some very red words

**PROBLEMS OF RELIGION** — Mark 7 and Matthew 21

<sup>5</sup> *The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" ...* <sup>8</sup> **"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."** <sup>9</sup> *He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition."*

Mark 7:5, 8–9

<sup>31</sup> **"Which of the two did the will of his father?"** *They said, "The first."* *Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you." <sup>44</sup> **And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."***

Matthew 21:31, 44

The Problem of "in or out" ... "us and them"

The Problem of power (control)

The Problem of "Righteousness"

The Problem of "Missing the point"

## HEALING STEPS

1. Know Jesus gets it, cares and is sympathetic. He too had a hard time with religious types and institutions
2. Start pulling apart the HAIRBALL
  - Ask: So what am I mad about? Where am I hurt? What are my actual problems with God?
  - Ask: Where am I getting religious?
3. Abandon fear, fighting, control, wall-building and trust (really trust) Jesus... it will be all right with Jesus.
4. Humility... Humility... Humility

**"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."**

Matthew 23:12

<sup>4</sup> **'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.'** <sup>5</sup> **Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.'**

Revelation 2:4–5

5. Return to your first love... primal, pristine