

# Scripture Lessons: September 5, 2021

## Isaiah 35:4-7 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,<sup>[a]</sup>  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

## Gospel Reading

### Mark 7:1-8 (NRSV)

<sup>7</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,<sup>[a]</sup> thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it;<sup>[b]</sup> and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze

kettles.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live<sup>[d]</sup> according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

### **Mark 7:14-15 (NRSV)**

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”<sup>[a]</sup>

### **Mark 7:21-23 (NRSV)**

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”