

February 21, 2021

The New Testament!
Matthew 15:1-9
"The Danger of Traditions!"

All Scripture ESV English Standard Version unless noted!

Matthew 15:1-9 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." 3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' 5 But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," 6 he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. 7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:
8 "This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
9 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Introduction

Today we continue to look at traditions and commandments

Today the "danger of traditions"

What we will see over the next few weeks!

1. Today the danger of traditions
2. The source of sin
3. The faith of a Canaanite woman

4. Christ's healing and compassion

Review of the Scripture!

Matthew 15:1-2 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat."

Over time the scribes and Pharisees looked upon these traditions as law

3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Jesus makes a clear distinction between the OT, which was the commandment of God, and the Pharisaic tradition

4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' **5** But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," **6** he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

"Given to God" reflects a technical term for a formal vow-Corban

7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Charles Spurgeon says, "religion based on human authority is worthless; we must worship the true God in the way of His own appointing, or we do not worship Him at all. Doctrines and ordinances are only to be accepted when the divine Word supports them, and they are to be accepted for that reason only.

The most punctilious form of devotion is vain worship, if it is regulated by man's ordinance apart from the Lord's own command!"

Jesus says, "you have an outward holiness but no love for God, or devotion for your parents in your hearts" What Isaiah said 700 years before Christ is still true today, "An outward show of religion, if the heart is not right with God, and does not come from an inner principle of faith, love and obedience to God, is nothing but pure hypocrisy"

The Danger of Traditions!

1. The outward show of religion, v1-2

Hypocrites attach great significance to outward performance, attendance, performance, strictness

2. The danger of adding tradition to the Word of God, v3-6

When we try to make additions to the Scripture we are always tempted to make our additions more important than the Scripture

3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Here Christ strikes at the heart of adding to the Scriptures

6 he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

3. God desires the worship of the heart, v7-9
What God desires is a heart devoted to and bent toward God

***Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me your heart,
and let your eyes observe my ways.***

So what must we settle?

Where does our worship come from?

It must come from a heart that loves God and is bent toward God!

Attendance, the bent knee, the bowed head, the loud singing and Amens, the daily readings are useless and unprofitable as long as our hearts are bent toward... sin, self, pleasure, money and the things of this world

The question Jesus always asks?

Do you love me?

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

The questions we must ask ourselves are:

1. Is my religion, my faith outward or a thing of the heart?
2. Do I live to honor God with my life?
3. Is my worship of God privately and especially publically from the heart?