



Lesson 33 – Tradition

Based on Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Matthew 15:1-2 Then came to _____ scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the _____ of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

The scribes and Pharisees, expecting to see Jesus at the Passover mentioned when Jesus fed the five thousand, had laid a trap for Him. But Jesus, knowing their purpose, had absented Himself from this gathering.

The spies they sent to Capernaum in the early part of His ministry, who had tried to fix on Him the charge of Sabbath breaking, had been put to confusion; but the rabbis were bent on carrying out their purpose. Now another deputation was sent to watch His movements and find some accusation against Him.

2) How did Jesus reply?

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the _____ of God by your tradition?

Among the observances most strenuously enforced was that of ceremonial purification. A neglect of the forms to be observed before eating was accounted a heinous sin, to be punished both in this world and in the next; and it was regarded as a virtue to destroy the transgressor.

The rules in regard to purification were numberless. The period of a lifetime was scarcely sufficient for one to learn them all. The life of those who tried to observe the rabbinical requirements was one long struggle against ceremonial defilement, an endless round of washings and purifications. While the people were occupied with trifling distinctions, and observances which God had not required, their attention was turned away from the great principles of His law.

3) First things first, According to Jesus, what comes first?

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see _____; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

1 John 2:3-5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his _____, is a _____, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God _____: hereby know we that we are in him.

Whenever the message of truth comes home to souls with special power, Satan stirs up his agents to start a dispute over some minor question. Thus he seeks to attract attention from the real issue. Whenever a good work is begun, there are cavilers ready to enter into dispute over forms or technicalities, to draw minds away from the living realities. When it appears that God is about to work in a special manner for His people, let them not be enticed into a controversy that will work only ruin of souls.

4) What commandments were the Jews forgetting through their traditions?

Mark 7:9-10 And he said unto them, Full well ye _____ the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him _____ the death:



5) What did they do that was wrong?

Mark 7:11-13 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is _____, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be _____. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of _____ effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

They taught the people that the devotion of their property to the temple was a duty more sacred than even the support of their parents; and that, however great the necessity, it was sacrilege to impart to father or mother any part of what had been thus consecrated. An undutiful child had only to pronounce the word "Corban" over his property, thus devoting it to God, and he could retain it for his own use during his lifetime, and after his death it was to be appropriated to the temple service.

6) How did Jesus address this?

Matthew 15:7-9 Ye _____, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their _____, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The deputies from Jerusalem were filled with rage. They could not accuse Christ as a violator of the law given from Sinai, for He spoke as its defender against their traditions. The great precepts of the law, which He had presented, appeared in striking contrast to the petty rules that men had devised.

7) How did Jesus address defilement?

Matthew 15:10-11 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, _____, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth _____ a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

8) Why did the disciples question Jesus?

Matthew 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were _____, after they heard this saying?

9) What was Jesus' reply to His disciples?

Matthew 15:13-14 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be _____ up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the _____.

10) Did Peter understand?

Matthew 15:15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, _____ unto us this parable.

11) How did Jesus clear up what He meant?

Matthew 15:17-20 Do not ye yet _____, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which _____ out of the mouth come forth from the _____; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to _____ with unwashen hands defileth not a man.



The substitution of the precepts of men for the commandments of God has not ceased. Even among Christians are found institutions and usages that have no better foundation than the traditions of the fathers. Such institutions, resting upon mere human authority, have supplanted those of divine appointment. Men cling to their traditions, and revere their customs, and cherish hatred against those who seek to show them their error.

12) What will happen to our traditions?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into _____, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The customs and traditions so highly valued by the rabbis were of this world, not from heaven. However great their authority with the people, they could not endure the testing of God. Every human invention that has been substituted for the commandments of God will be found worthless in that day.

13) How will God’s people be treated?

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was _____ with the woman, and went to make _____ with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

14) What are the “first things first” for today’s people?

Revelation 12:17 ... which keep the _____ of God, and have the _____ of Jesus Christ

15) What was David’s claim?

Psalms 119:99-100 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my _____. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy _____.

16) What Words of warning still apply to today’s Christians?

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for _____ the commandments of men.

Let all who accept human authority, the customs of the church, or the traditions of the fathers, take heed to the warning conveyed in the words of Christ.

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