

Totally Energized for Jesus - JESUS the Great I AM Bible lesson series



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 eld for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. | lers? |
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| The scribes and Pharisees, expecting to see Jesus at the Passover mentioned when Jesus 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 he the charge of Sabbath breaking, had been put to confusion; but the rabbis were bent on catheir purpose. Now another deputation was sent to watch His movements and find som accusation against Him. | rrying |
| 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? | е |
| 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 punis both in this world and in the next; and it was regarded as a virtue to destroy the transgress | |
| 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 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 a, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily the love of God: hereby know we that we are in him. | , is |
| 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 real issue. Whenever a good work is begun, there are cavilers ready to enter into dispute of forms or technicalities, to draw minds away from the living realities. When it appears that Gabout to work in a special manner for His people, let them not be enticed into a controversy will work only ruin of souls. | the over God is |
| 4) What commandments were the Jews forgetting through their traditions? Mark 7:9-10 And he said unto them, Full well ye the commandment God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and t mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him the death: | |



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| 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 |
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| 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 sacre- than even the support of their parents; and that, however great the necessity, it was sacrilege tempart 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 the 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 th blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the |
| 10) <u>Did Peter understand?</u> 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, theft |
| false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to with unwashen hands defileth not a man |



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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, secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. | with every |
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| The customs and traditions so highly valued by the rabbis were of this world, not from However great their authority with the people, they could not endure the testing of Chuman invention that has been substituted for the commandments of God will be forworthless in that day. | God. Every |
| 13) How will God's people be treated? Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was with the woman, and we with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of 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 | e the |
| of Jesus Christ | |
| 15) What was David's claim? Psalm 119:99-100 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for the are my I understand more than the ancients, because | • |
| 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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