

10/6/13

TITLE: VAIN WORSHIP

TEXT: MATTHEW 15:1-9

INTRODUCTION: (1) ONE OF THE SUPREME STATEMENTS OF GOD'S WILL IS EXPRESSED IN EXODUS 20:7:

* "THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN."

** NOW MANY OF US HAVE HEARD THAT COMMAND MANY TIMES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT.

*** BUT MANY CHRISTIANS DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS COMMAND MEANS.

**** NOW OBVIOUSLY THIS COMMAND PROHIBITS PROFANITY OR VULGARITY IN WHICH THE LORD'S NAME IS USED.

(2) IT ALSO PROHIBITS FLIPPANT, IRREVERENT

USE OF HIS NAME.

* BUT MORE THAN THOSE OBVIOUS THINGS, IT ALSO FORBIDS ANY USE OF GOD'S NAME THAT IS SUPERFICIAL, INDIFFERENT, INSINCERE, OR HYPOCRITICAL.

** FOR YOU SEE THE CONCEPT OF "NAME", TAKING THE LORD'S "NAME" IN VAIN, WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HIS NAME, INVOLVES HIS CHARACTER, HIS NATURE AND HIS ESSENCE.

*** MEANING, WE ARE NOT TO TREAT THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S CHARACTER IN A VAIN, IRREVERENT OR INSINCERE MANNER.

**** THUS THE COMMAND OF EXODUS 20:7 IS NOT LIMITED TO CURSING, BUT INVOLVES ANY EMPTY, VAIN, FRUITLESS, HYPOCRITICAL WORSHIP OF GOD.

(3) IN LIGHT OF THAT, SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT GOD'S NAME IS TAKEN IN VAIN MORE

OFTEN IN THE CHURCH THAN OUTSIDE OF IT.

* THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MOMENT. IT IS RATHER SHOCKING BUT I BELIEVE IT IS TRUE.

** FOR IN REALITY, MANY PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH AND OFFER EMPTY WORSHIP WITH NEEDLESS REPETITION, EMPTY PRAISE, THOUGHTLESS SINGING, INDIFFERENT PRAYERS AND NO RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD.

*** SOME PEOPLE COME OUT OF SOOTHING THEIR CONSCIENCE, AND WHEN THEY GET HERE, THEY ARE BORED, WANT TO REST, SLEEP, ONLY TALK WHEN THEY ARE SPOKEN TO, CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS IN THEIR WORSHIP.

**** AND THAT KIND OF WORSHIP IS CONDEMNED IN SCRIPTURE FOR IT'S NOT WORSHIP, IT'S TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN.

(4) WELL, MANY OF THE JEWS IN JESUS' DAY WERE WORSHIPPING GOD IN VAIN, IN FACT, IN V. 9 OF OUR TEXT, JESUS SAID OF THE PHARISEES

AND SCRIBES HE HAD CONFRONTED, “IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME.”

* NOW, HOW WERE THEY WORSHIPPING GOD IN VAIN? WELL, THEIR WORSHIP WAS HEARTLESS, COLD AND THEY INVALIDATED THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR TRADITION.

** THEY HAD FORM BUT NO FAITH. THEY HAD RITUAL AND RELIGION, BUT NO RELATIONSHIP. THEY HAD THE EXTERNALS DOWN PAT WITH NO INTERNAL HEART RESPONSE.

*** AND IN ESSENCE, THEY WERE A BUNCH OF PHONIES, HYPOCRITES, FALSE WORSHIPPERS, WORSHIPPING GOD IN VAIN.

**** BECAUSE OF THAT, I’VE TITLED THE SERMON TODAY, “VAIN WORSHIP”.

(5) FOR IN OUR PASSAGE OF STUDY, JESUS CONFRONTS THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS SYSTEM OF HIS DAY HEAD ON, SHOWING, ABOVE ALL, THE EMPTINESS AND WORTHLESSNESS OF IT’S

WORSHIP.

* AND TO HELP CRYSTALIZE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 THINGS TODAY. NO. 1 THE CONFRONTATION BY THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES OF JESUS, VV. 1&2; NO. 2 THE CONDEMNATION OF THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES BY JESUS, VV. 3-6; AND NO. 3 THE COMMENTARY THAT JESUS GIVES OF THEIR HYPOCRISY FROM ISA. 29:13, VV. 7-9.

** AND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LOOK AT V. 1 OF MATT. 15 WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE CONFRONTATION.

I. THE CONFRONTATION, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW THE WORD THEN IN V. 1 LIT. MEANS AT THAT TIME AND REFERS TO AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

* TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THE WORD THEN IS NOT INTENDED TO SHOW SEQUENCE AS MUCH AS IT IS A GENERAL INDICATION OF CONTINUATION OF THE GROWING CONFLICT BETWEEN JESUS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

** WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN STATES IN HIS COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW, "IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE OPPOSITION AGAINST JESUS IS INCREASING IN INTENSITY." (END QUOTE)

*** AND THE OPPOSITION BY THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT IN PALESTINE WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS CHRONOLOGICALLY ACCORDING TO JOHN 6:4 WE KNOW THAT IT WAS PASSOVER SEASON, THE THIRD ONE OF JESUS' MINISTRY, A YEAR BEFORE HIS FINAL CELEBRATION OF IT WITH THE DISCIPLES IN THE

UPPER ROOM AND THEN HIS CRUCIFIXION. SO IT'S ALL STARTING TO COME TO A HEAD. JESUS IS ON A HEAD ON COLLISION WITH THE PHARISES AND SCRIBES.

**** NOW UNDERSTAND THESE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WERE NOT LOCAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN JUDAISM, BUT WERE FROM WHERE? FROM JERUSALEM ACCORDING TO V.1.

1. AND APPARENTLY THESE RELIGIONISTS HAVE COME TO GALILEE, AT LEAST 60 MILES, FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF CHALLENGING JESUS.

* MATTHEW SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THEY CAME TO JESUS, THE REASON BEING, JESUS' REPUTATION HAD GROWN TO THE POINT OF CREATING INSECURITY AND FEAR IN THOSE WHOM HE CHALLENGED.

** F.F. BRUCE IN HIS COMMENTARY ON

MATTHEW SUGGESTS THAT THE LOCAL RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP HAD INVITED THESE JERUSALEM DIGNITARIES TO HELP THEM REFUTE THE TEACHING OF JESUS. HE WAS STILL POPULAR WITH THE MULTITUDES.

*** SO THEY WERE BRINGING IN THE BIG GUNS, THE HEAVY WEIGHTS, THE HIGH POWERED GUYS. AND THEY COME IN CONFRONTING JESUS WITH A QUESTION, LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW THESE VISITING RELIGIOUS BIG GUNS DID NOT TRY TO HIDE THE FACT THAT CHRIST'S DISCIPLES OFFENSE WAS AGAINST THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS RATHER THAN GOD'S LAW.

* IN THEIR MINDS, THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS WAS SUPERIOR TO SCRIPTURE, IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS THE ONLY RELIABLE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD. TRADITION OVER SCRIPTURE, TRADITION EQUEL TO SCRIPTURE, OR TRADITION TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE.

** AND JUST AS ROMAN CATHOLICS LOOK TO CHURCH DOGMA TO DISCOVER WHAT SCRIPTURE "REALLY MEANS", MOST JEWS OF JESUS' DAY LOOKED TO THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS.

*** AND IN CASE YOU THINK I'M JUST PICKING ON ROMAN CATHOLICS, IN MUCH THE SAME WAY, MANY PROTESTANTS GIVE MORE AUTHORITY TO THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THEIR DENOMINATION THAN TO THE BIBLE.

**** TRADITION AND THE EDICTS OF COUNCILS THEN BECOME MORE AUTHORITATIVE THAN SCRIPTURE. AND WHENEVER RELIGION ADDS TO SCRIPTURE THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS.

1. FOR ONLY SCRIPTURE, SOLA SCRIPTURA, IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR BELIEF AND PRACTICE IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, II TIM. 3:16&17 (QUOTE IT) (ALSO QUOTE PS. 19:7-11). WE BELIEVE IN THE ABSOLUTE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE. II TIMOTHY 4:2-4

* NOW THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES HAD

EXALTED THEIR TRADITION ABOVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD AS WE'LL SEE IN CHRIST'S CONDEMNATION.

** BUT AT THIS POINT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO ASK A QUESTION, WHAT WAS THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS?

*** WELL, THE ELDERS WERE THE GREAT RABBIS OF THE PAST WHOSE ORAL TEACHINGS HAD COME TO BE VIEWED ALMOST EQUAL AND IN SOME SENSES ABOVE THE LAW ITSELF.

**** NOW THESE TEACHINGS WERE DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF RULES OF CONDUCT.

2. LET ME ILLUSTRATE: THE LAW OF GOD WOULD GIVE A COMMAND LIKE, "REMEMBER THE SABBATH TO KEEP IT HOLY", BUT THEN THE ORAL TRADITIONS PASSED ON BY THE RABBIS WOULD LIST SPECIFIC RULES TO FULFILL THIS COMMANDMENT. THE DO'S AND DON'TS.

* AND SOME RULERS WERE SO FANATICAL THAT ONLY THE MOST COMMITTED WOULD PRACTICE

THEM, THUS CREATING A HIERARCHY OF SPIRITUALITY IN WHICH THE PHARISEES REVELED.

** AND BY JESUS' DAY, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SCRIPTURE AND THE TRADITIONS BASED ON INTERPRETATIONS OF SCRIPTURE GRADUALLY BECAME LESS AND LESS DISTINCT AND BEFORE LONG TRADITION WAS MORE FAMILIAR AND MORE REVERED THAN GOD'S WORD.

*** NOW UNDERSTANDING THAT HELPS US TO SEE THAT IN THE THINKING OF THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES, THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS WERE SINNING, TRANSGRESSING, BREADING, OVERSTEPPING, SETTING ASIDE THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS.

**** NOW SPECIFICALLY, WHAT WERE THEY NOT DOING? WELL, THEY DID NOT WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE THEY ATE. THE LAST PART OF

V.2.

3. AND HYGIENE, GERMS AND CLEANLINESS WAS NOT THEIR CONCERN HERE, BUT CEREMONIAL WASHING, A CERTAIN KIND OF WASHING OF THE HANDS THAT MADE A PERSON CEREMONIALLY CLEAN BEFORE EATING.

* THIS CEREMONIAL WASHING CLEANSED A PERSON FROM ANY DEFILEMENT AND SPECIFICALLY IN TWO AREAS.

** NO. 1 IF A JEW HAD TOUCHED A GENTILE THAT DAY, HE WAS DEFILED. THERE WAS A PRESCRIBED CEREMONY FOR REMOVAL OF THAT DEFILEMENT.

*** AND NO. 2, SOME OF THE RABBIS TAUGHT THERE WAS A DEMON CALLED "SHIBTA" THAT DWELT ON PEOPLE'S HANDS WHILE THEY SLEPT.

**** AND IF THEY DID NOT GO THROUGH THE CEREMONIAL WASHINGS TO ELIMINATE HIM, HE

WOULD BE PASSED ON TO THEIR FOOD AND INTO THEIR BODIES.

4. IN LIGHT OF THAT, JEWISH SCHOLAR ALFRED EDERSHEIM REPORTS THAT THE JEWS HAD ELABORATE PROCESSES FOR WASHING FINGERS AND HANDS TO BE CEREMONIALLY CLEANSED.

* AND, YES IN THE O.T., THE PRIESTS OF GOD HAD TO WASH THEIR GARMENTS BEFORE THEY COULD COME TO GOD AND WASH THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY COULD CARRY OUT ANY RITES OF THE PRIESTHOOD IN EXODUS 19:2 AND LEVITICUS 15-17.

** BUT NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE DOES GOD EVER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT RINSING HANDS IN A CEREMONIAL WAY TO ELIMINATE GENTILE INFLUENCE OR A DEMON CALLED SHIBTA.

*** BUT THAT HAD BECOME JEWISH TRADITION AND THEY MADE THAT LAW, AND THE PHARISEES WERE JUDGING JESUS' DISCIPLES FOR NOT OBEYING THEIR TRADITION AND THAT'S WHAT THEY CONFRONTED JESUS WITH.

**** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE CONDEMNATION BY JESUS OF THEM IN RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY. LOOK AT MATT. 15:3 PLEASE.

II. THE CONDEMNATION, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW JESUS' RESPONSE WAS PROBABLY SHOCKING AND OFFENSIVE TO HIS ATTACKERS. AND HE DOESN'T ANSWER THEIR QUESTION, BUT GIVES THEM ONE THAT HAD TO CUT TO THE CORE OF THEIR PRIDE.

* JESUS COMMUNICATED THAT THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES HAD TRANSGRESSED, VIOLATED, BROKEN THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR TRADITION.

** AND WITH THAT STATEMENT, JESUS INDICATED THAT THE ONLY THING OF IMPORTANCE WAS SCRIPTURE, NOT TRADITION.

*** AS JESUS INDICATED IN MATT. 4:4 (QUOTE IT).

**** AND LATER JESUS WILL SAY IN MATT. 24:35 (QUOTE IT).

1. AND BELOVED AS WE GO BACK TO MATT. 15:3, JESUS IS TEACHING THAT SCRIPTURE IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS BINDING.

* JESUS PULLED THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES FROM BEHIND THE SKIRTS OF THE ELDER'S TRADITIONS AND SHOWED THEM THEY WERE THE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.

** FOR REMEMBER, THEY SAID TO HIM, WHY DO YOU BREAK OUR TRADITIONS? AND THEY GAVE HIM AN ILLUSTRATION.

*** THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, "WHY DO YOU

BREAK THE COMMANDS OF GOD BY YOUR TRADITIONS? THEN HE GAVE THEM AN ILLUSTRATION BEGINNING IN V. 4. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 4. NOW THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE COMMANDMENT THAT THEY BROKE HAD TO DO WITH THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT FOUND IN EX. 20:12 “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER”.

* AND A CONSEQUENCE OF NOT KEEPING THIS COMMANDMENT, WHICH WAS SO IMPORTANT TO FAMILY LIFE, WAS THAT THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING THAT COMMAND OF NOT HONORING YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER BY SPEAKING EVIL AGAINST THEM, WAS THE DEATH PENALTY IN EXODUS 21:17.

** AND HONORING FATHER AND MOTHER MEANS TO PLACE VALUE UPON THEM, TO REVERE, TO SHOW THE VALUE OF THEM, TO LOVE AND HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS.

*** AND GOD BY THIS COMMAND WAS EMPHASIZING THE DIVINE ATTITUDE TOWARD

PARENTS AND FAMILY STRUCTURE AND EXALTING THE INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY.

**** BUT MANY JEWS BUILT A LOOPHOLE AROUND THIS COMMANDMENT BY A TRADITION THEY CAME UP WITH, SO THEY COULD GET AROUND KEEPING THIS IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 5. NOW JESUS BEGINS IN V. 5 BY MAKING THE STATEMENT “BUT YOU SAY” IN CONTRAST TO WHAT GOD SAYS, TO SHOW THEM HOW THEY HAD VIOLATED THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD BY THEIR TRADITION.

* AND HERE’S WHAT THEY DID RATHER THAN HELPING A PARENT THAT HAD A PHYSICAL NEED. AND THAT MAY SOUND STRANGE, FOR TODAY IT’S NORMALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

** BUT REMEMBER THINGS WERE MUCH DIFFERENT THEN THAN THEY ARE TODAY, OLDER PARENTS DID NOT HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY, 401K’S, PENSION PLANS FROM

COMPANIES THEY RETIRED FROM AND HOMES THAT ARE PAID FOR.

*** SO MANY OF THEM HAD GREAT FINANCIAL NEED. SO THEY GO TO THEIR CHILDREN AND ASK FOR HELP, OR ASK FOR A POSSESSION THAT THEY HAD SEVERAL OF OR IN ABUNDANCE.

**** BUT THE CHILD DOESN'T WANT TO HELP. EITHER BY GREED OR PAST BITTERNESS AND HURT OR LOVE OF MONEY, THEY DO NOT WANT TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS.

1. BUT THEY HAVE A COMMAND. SO HOW DO THEY SIDESTEP GOD'S COMMAND? HOW DO THEY GET AROUND IT?

* WELL, THEY COME UP WITH A LOOPHOLE PRACTICE AND THIS PRACTICE WAS CALLED CORBAN WHICH LIT. MEANS OFFERING OR A GIFT OFFERED TO GOD.

** AND THIS WAS REALLY SLICK ON THEIR PARTS FOR IF A PERSON DIDN'T WANT TO HELP MEET A SPECIFIC PHYSICAL NEED OF THEIR PARENTS,

THEY COULD TAKE THAT OBJECT OR MONEY AND DEDICATE IT TO GOD'S USE BY SAYING CORBAN OVER IT.

*** AND WHEN THIS HAPPENED, THE MONEY OR OBJECT WOULD BE RESERVED FOR SACRED USE AND WITHDRAWN BY USE BY ANYONE ELSE.

**** BUT, BUT – THE BENEFITS COULD BE USED BY THE CHILD, MUCH LIKE AN IRREVOCABLE TRUST WORKS TODAY. THE ONE WHO HAS POSSESSION COULD USE AN ARTICLE GIVEN TO GOD INDEFINITELY, BUT COULD NOT TRANSFER IT TO ANYONE ELSE, LIKE THEIR PARENT.

2. WE ARE EVEN TOLD THAT SOME PEOPLE WOULD EVEN USE THIS LOOPHOLE TO KEEP FROM PAYING DEBTS. “WELL I CAN'T PAY MY DEBT FOR THIS MONEY OR OBJECT HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO GOD – CORBAN.”

* AND MARK'S PARALLEL PASSAGE OF THE

ACCOUNT WE ARE LOOKING AT IN MATT. 15
MAKES THIS EVEN CLEARER.

** FOR MARK SAYS IN MARK 7:11&12: “BUT YOU
SAY, “IF A MAN SAYS TO HIS FATHER OR HIS
MOTHER, ANYTHING OF MINE YOU MIGHT HAVE
BEEN HELPED BY IS CORBAN (THAT IS TO SAY,
GIVEN TO GOD), YOU NO LONGER PERMIT HIM
TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIS FATHER OR HIS
MOTHER.”

*** NOW DOESN'T THAT SOUND SPIRITUAL. MOM
AND DAD I CAN'T HELP YOU, WHAT YOU WANT
OR NEED HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO GOD.

**** WHEN ALL ALONG IT JUST SERVED THEIR
SELFISH INTERESTS. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 6. NOW WHEN JEWISH CHILDREN
SAID CORBAN OVER CERTAIN POSSESSIONS
AND MONEY, THEY PHARISEES AND SCRIBES
WERE TEACHING PEOPLE THEY HAD THEN MADE

A VOW TO GOD. A SPECIAL PROMISE TO GOD IN THEIR DEDICATION OF THE THING OR OBJECT.

* AND NUMBERS 30:2 SAYS THEY WOULD HAVE TO KEEP THEIR VOW, AND ECC. 5:4&5 SAYS, YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR VOW (QUOTE THEM).

** NOW WITH THE VOW IDEA IN MIND, V. 6A STARTS TO MAKE SENSE, "MOM AND DAD, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO HONOR YOU WITH THESE THINGS FOR I HAVE MADE A VOW TO GOD."

*** NOW THEY WERE FORBIDDEN IN HELPING MOM AND DAD BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BREAK THEIR VOW. SO THEN V. 6A, "HE IS NOT TO HONOR HIS FATHER OR MOTHER." THIS IS WHAT THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WOULD SAY BECAUSE THEY HAD MADE A VOW.

**** BUT NOTICE CHRIST'S ASSESMENT OF THEIR SELFISH SELF-RIGHTEOUS TRADITION, "YOU HAVE IN YOUR TRADITION INVALIDATED THE

WORD OF GOD.”

1. AND THE GREEK WORD FOR INVALIDATED IN THE NAS, AND NULLIFY IN THE NIV AND MADE OF NO EFFECT IN THE KJV AND NKJV LIT. MEANS: TO RENDER VOID, TO DEPRIVE OF FORCE AND AUTHORITY TO DISANNUL.

* AND BELOVED THAT’S WHAT THEIR TRADITION DID, IT NULLIFIED, INVALIDATED, RENDERED VOID THE WORD OF GOD. YOU HAVE RENDERED VOID THE WORD OF GOD AND DEPRIVED IT OF IT’S FORCE AND AUTHORITY.

** JESUS CONDEMNED THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES FOR EXALTING TRADITION OVER SCRIPTURE AND HE WILL GIVE A COMMENTARY OF WHAT THEY REALLY ARE IN VV. 7-9, WHICH IS A STINGING INDICTMENT.

*** LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE WHERE WE’LL START TO SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE COMMENTARY.

III. THE COMMENTARY, (READ V. 7)

A. NOW JESUS BLASTED THESE SELF-RIGHTEOUS RELIGIOUS LEADERS WITH THE WORD HYPOCRITRIES. “YOU HYPOCRITES.”

* AND THIS TERM IS USED 20 TIMES IN THE GOSPELS, 15 IN MATTHEW AND APPLIED MOST DIRECTLY TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BY JESUS HIMSELF.

** AND THIS PARTICULAR GREEK WORD COMES FROM GREEK DRAMA, REFERRING TO ONE WHO PLAYED A PART, A PRETENDER, AN ACTOR.

*** AND THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES WERE HIDING BEHIND THE MASKS OF ACTORS TRYING TO BE SPIRITUAL WHEN IN REALITY THEY WERE NOT, IN FACT DEAD SPIRITUALLY.

**** JESUS THEN LINKED THESE HYPOCRITS TO HYPOCRITES TALKED ABOUT IN ISAIAH THE

PROPHET'S DAY IN ISA. 29:13.

- AND IN V. 8, JESUS BASICALLY QUOTES ISA. 29:13 AND MAKES APPLICATION OF IT TO HIS DAY.

B. READ V. 8. NOW WHAT ISAIAH SAID ABOUT JEWS IN HIS DAY IS APPLIED TO RELIGIOUS JEWS IN JESUS' DAY.

* AND THEIR RELIGION IS ALL TALK AND NO WALK. IT'S ALL SHOW AND NO GO. IT'S ACTING, IT'S RELIGION WITH NO RELATIONSHIP.

** AND PEOPLE IN THEIR PRIDE LIKE TO BE RELIGIOUS AND THOUGHT OF AS PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD OR HOLY.

*** BUT EXTERNALS AND TALK AND TRADITION REQUIRE NO INTEGRITY OF HEART, THEY ARE EASILY SUBSTITUTED FOR TRUE WORSHIP AND OBEDIENCE. CRANK IT OUT IN THE FLESH AND HAVE PRIDE ABOUT IT.

**** AND THAT IS WHY RITUAL, CEREMONY AND OTHER RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE WORSHIPPERS FURTHER FROM GOD THAN BRING THEM CLOSER.

1. AND IN ESSENCE V. 8 IDENTIFIES THE FACTOR THAT EARNED THE NAME HYPOCRITE: THEY OFFERED GOD HONOR WITH THEIR LIPS VERBALLY, BUT DID NOT HONOR HIM IN THEIR HEARTS, THE INTERNAL, ESSENTIAL QUALITY OF ONE'S BEING. THEIR HEARTS WERE FAR FROM GOD.

* AND AS A RESULT OF THAT, THEIR WORSHIP WAS VAIN, LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 9. NOW IN V. 9, JESUS GOES EVEN FURTHER TO CONDEMN AND EXPOSE THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES HYPOCRISY.

* FOR DESPITE ALL OF THEIR CEREMONY, RELIGIOUS WORDS AND PIOUS ATTITUDES, THEIR WORSHIP WAS VAIN, FRUITLESS, WORTHLESS, OF NO AVAIL.

** THEIR WORSHIP HAD NO SUBSTANCE BUT ONLY EMPTY RITUAL.

*** AND BELOVED, TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES SPIRITUAL COMMUNING WITH GOD, INTIMACY AND TRUTH.

**** AND TO ASCRIBE GLORY TO GOD AND TO HONOR HIS HOLY NAME, TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WORD (TRUTH).

1. FOR JESUS SAID IN JOHN 4:24 TO THE SAMARITAN WOMEN: (QUOTE IT AND EXPLAIN).

* SO WE MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, WITH OUR HEADS AND HEARTS AND THAT CAPACITY STARTS AT CONVERSION, FOR UNSAVED, UNFORGIVEN, UNREDEEMED PEOPLE CANNOT WORSHIP OR PLEASE GOD.

** AND THEN NOTICE AT THE END OF V. 9, WE

HAVE THE MEANS BY WHICH THESE RELIGIONISTS WORSHIPPED GOD IN VAIN, IT WAS BY TEACHING HUMAN PRECEPTS AS BEING EQUAL TO GOD'S WORD.

*** PUTTING OUR OPINIONS, OUR PREFERENCES AND OUR TRADITIONS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE WORD OF GOD. AND THAT EQUALS VAIN WORSHIP AND TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN, WHERE WE STARTED TODAY.

IN WRAP UP: (1) THE ONLY HEART THAT CAN WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH IS THE HEART THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST.

* AND THE ONLY HEART THAT BELONGS TO HIM IS THE HEART CLEANSED FROM SIN AND MADE RIGHTEOUS BY CHRIST. JER. 17:9 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

** AND IN ESSENCE WE NEED A HEART TRANSPLANT THROUGH SALVATION THAT WE

CAN HAVE A NEW HEART THAT IS CAPABLE OF TRUE WORSHIP.

*** WE MUST BE FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS, FOR OUTSIDE OF CHRIST OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH THE DARKNESS OF SIN.

**** AND PAUL SAYS TO THE ROMAN BELIEVERS IN ROMANS 6:17 (QUOTE IT).

(2) AND FOLKS, THE FIRST STEP TO TRUE WORSHIP FROM VAIN WORSHIP IS SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE, QUOTE ROM. 10:9&10&13.

* AND IF YOU'VE NEVER TRULY BELIEVED WITH THE HEART, COMING TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH IS TRULY BELIEVING IN THE HEART. AND I WOULD CALL YOU TO CHRIST TODAY.

(3) BELIEVER, ONE LAST QUESTION FOR YOU. DO YOU WORSHIP GOD IN VAIN, MECHANICALLY, MINDLESSLY AND WITHOUT OBEDIENCE TO HIS

WORD?

* HAVE YOU PUT YOUR TRADITIONS ON PAR WITH THE WORD? WHAT IS YOUR FINAL AUTHORITY? IT BETTER BE THE WORD OF GOD OR YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN VAIN WORSHIP, TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN. (LET'S PRAY)

V. 1 – THEN SOME PHARISEES AND SCRIBES CAME TO JESUS FROM JERUSALEM AND SAID,

V. 2 – “WHY DO YOUR DISCIPLES BREAK THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS? FOR THEY DO NOT WASH THEIR HANDS WHEN THEY EAT BREAD”

V.3 – AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, “WHY DO YOU YOURSELVES TRANSGRESS THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION?”

V. 4 – “FOR GOD SAID, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, AND, HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’

V. 5 – “BUT YOU SAY, ‘WHOEVER SAYS TO HIS FATHER OR MOTHER, “WHATEVER I HAVE THAT WOULD HELP YOU HAS BEEN GIVEN TO GOD,”

V. 6 – HE IS NOT TO HONOR HIS FATHER OR HIS MOTHER. AND BY THIS YOU INVALIDATED THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION.

V. 7 – “YOU HYPOCRITS, RIGHTLY DID ISAIAH PROPHECY OF YOU:

V. 8 – THIS PEOPLE HONORS
ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR
AWAY FROM ME.

V. 9 – BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF
MEN.”