

February 14, 2021

**The New Testament!**  
**Matthew 15:1-9**  
**"Traditions and Commandments!"**

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 come to Jesus intensified dealings with the Scribes and the Pharisees

Matthew 15

1-9 The law verses traditions

10-20 Jesus teaches on purity and impurity of the heart, showing himself to be the true teacher of God's Word

21-39 Jesus the compassionate healer and provider for Gentiles

Today we take on the teaching of Jesus regarding the commandments and tradition

***Expounding 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."

The highest-ranking Pharisees and scribes arrive to confront Jesus

They ask, why do your disciples break the traditions of the elders?

**2 Thessalonians 2:15** *So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.*

The religious leaders, Pharisees, Scribes and Sanhedrin took Deuteronomy and ran with it

**Deuteronomy 4:14** *And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.*

It was these strict sects that Jesus is dealing with in Chapter 15

**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, which consisted of merely human pronouncements.

Making traditions, which were fine in the beginning, more important than the law was common place for zealots, they go overboard with a good thing

How bad was it

Jewish Rabbi Jose says, "He sins as much who eats with unwashed hands as one who sleeps with a prostitute."

The catholic church made it a greater sin to marry than to commit fornication

**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

This allowed a person to be released from other responsibilities, such as caring for aging parents  
Pharisees had made null and void the word of God with their traditions and rulings

Anyone who broke a vow (to human law) in order to help needy parents (God's law) would have committed a serious transgression

Jesus charges them with voiding and nullifying the law of God with their tradition

**Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.**

Jesus makes it clear that our parents and their needs are the responsibility of their children

The old Roman law was, "Let the children take care of their parents or be imprisoned"

They said, "what I had that I could have taken care of you with, I have dedicated to God" (for now)

**Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.**

Jesus makes it clear that our parents and their needs are the responsibility of their children

**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.'**

Two things reveal the Pharisees to be hypocrites

1. Their actions are external and not from the hearts
2. Their teachings are not from God but based on human tradition

Jesus says, you have an outward holiness but no love for or devotion for you parents in your hearts  
Isaiah spoke to the Jews years before

What is said here 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'

Their worship of Me is unprofitably and of no purpose

### **Summary**

Two things that reveal the hypocrite

1. Their actions are external and not from the hearts
2. Their teachings are not from God but based on human tradition

Let me ask us? Do we love God with all your heart and is our heart bent toward God?