

TRADITIONS VS. COMMANDMENTS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—March 19th, 2023

Mark 7:1-13

(ESV)

[1] Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, [2] they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. [3] (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, [4] and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) [5] And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” [6] And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
[7] in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

[8] You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

[9] And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! [10] For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ [11] But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)—[12] then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, [13] thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

INTRODUCTION

Scribes

- teachers and interpreters of the Law
- often arbiters for legal disputes among the people
- relied heavily on customs and traditions
- zealous for the Word of God

Pharisees

- a religious group
- often Pharisees were Scribes
- zealous for the Law and to traditions
- thought of themselves as models of obedience

John 8:44—You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.

Grace that is earned is no grace at all—we need Christ.

Today we’ll see that tradition leads to death, but faith leads to life.

TRADITIONS OF MEN ARE LEGALISTIC

Jerusalem during the time of Jesus was a place of dead religion.

Legalism is when I establish the standard of holiness.

TRADITIONS OF MEN ARE EXTERNAL

None of these practices address the impurity of the heart.

It is easier to practice religious rituals than it is to address the sin in our hearts.

True religion transforms the heart!

- **Luke 22:37**—“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
- **Proverbs 4:23**—Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
- **Jeremiah 29:13**—You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

TRADITIONS OF MEN PRODUCE VAIN WORSHIPERS

hypocrite = an actor in Greek theater who spoke underneath a mask

John 4:23—*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.*

Matthew 7:22–23—*[22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

2 Timothy 1:12–13—*But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. [13] Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus*

Vain worship emphasizes what one has accomplished, but true worship emphasizes faith in what Christ has accomplished.

TRADITIONS OF MEN REJECT THE WISDOM OF GOD

Psalm 19:7

*The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;*

1 Corinthians 3:18–19—*[18] Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. [19] For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness...”*

Corban

- an offering made to God.
- every Jewish person had the obligation of caring for their parents until they died
- their property would be dedicated to the temple, so this would release them from the obligation to care for their parents.

Matthew 7:19—*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Galatians 2:19–20—*[19] For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. [20] I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*