

**THE BOOK OF MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**



**Traditions, Commands,
and the Worship of God**
Matthew 15:1-9

The Officials Arrive (1)

Their Challenge (2)

Jesus Dismantles the Leaders

- Jesus' Charge (3)
- God's Command (4)
- Their Violation (5)
- The Consequence (6)
- Isaiah's Prophecy (7-9)

Application/Participation

- **Be aware of the reality of traditions within all the expressions of Christian churches**
- We tend to notice Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox
- But this also includes Pentecostal, Charismatic, Church of Christ, Methodist, Baptist, Holiness, Puritans, and Reformed
- There are many kinds, and many good, even necessary
- Traditions don't have to be visible, but also include forms, vocabulary, etc.
- The question isn't "do we have traditions?", but "what are they and how do they function?"
- The great issue with the Puritan movement (see Ryan Reeves)

Application/Participation

- Whatever traditions we may identify, the most fundamental importance is the issue of the heart
- Love for God and for others
- Are there ways that our tradition(s) are unloving?
- It is unloving to God to have tradition intrude on the perfect righteousness of Jesus for us
- It is unloving to others to have traditions intermingle with the principle realities of the Gospel

The heart is the principle thing...the principle point to which we attend in all the relations between God and our souls. What is the first thing we need in order to be Christians? A new heart. - What is the sacrifice God asks us to bring to Him? A broken and contrite heart. - What is true circumcision? The circumcision of the heart. - What is genuine obedience? To obey from the heart. - What is saving faith? - To believe with the heart. - Where ought Christ to dwell? To dwell in our hearts by faith. - What is the chief request that wisdom makes? Give me your heart."

~J.C. Ryle
