

Lunch Time Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of Matthew: "Tradition and Truth"
Matthew 15:1-9

February 26, 2019

"This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8-9)

I. Traditions: Good and Bad

- a. If you do something more than once and you plan to do it again, it becomes a tradition. Describe personal traditions that are done by you or your family. _____, _____.
- b. Most institutions have traditions that have become widely accepted as policy but not law.
- c. Sacred cows can be turned into idols.
 1. Describe helpful church traditions: _____, _____, _____.
 2. Describe hurtful church traditions: _____, _____, _____.
- d. Some traditions can appear to be "doctrinal law", if people are not taught the truth of God's Word. (Read 1 Cor 10:23-24)

II. Jesus Rejected the "Sacred Traditions"

- a. The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of not following a tradition of *ceremonial washings*.
- b. Ceremonial washings, which had nothing to do with hygiene, were done "just in case" a Jew came in contact with anything a Gentile may have touched. (Read Mark 7:1-4).
- c. Where did these traditions come from?
- d. They were handed down from previous generations, known as "oral law", originally from Moses to the elders then to the nation. This oral law became the *Mishnah* ("repetition").
- e. Over time, the *Mishnah* became more important and more authoritative than the original Law of Moses (The Ten Commandments), also called, the *Talmud* (written law).
- f. Jesus called the Pharisees/scribes hypocrites because they were placing man-made rules above God's commandment, specifically, to honor your father and mother.
 1. The practice of *Korban* means "gift." If a Jew wanted to escape financial responsibilities, they could claim *Korban*, a gift from God.
 2. Apparently, some Jews owed their parents money and claimed *Korban*, so they would not have to repay them. Therefore, they placed *Korban* above honoring their parents.
- g. Tradition is something *external*, while God's truth is *internal*, in the heart.
- h. People obey tradition to please men and gain status, but believers obey the Word to please God.
- i. Traditions can be bad if they are used to escape obedience to God.
- j. God has commanded that we care for our parents, therefore *any* teaching that diverts this care is defiant, not divine.

III. Practical Application of this Text

- a. Unfortunately, there are many "evangelical traditions" (man-made teachings) in churches today, that are often considered as authoritative as the Word of God.
- b. God's commandments have God's will in mind and His people. Traditions are good as long as they guide and not control.
- c. Helpful church traditions should support the truth in God's Word.