

Matthew 15 Truth Trumps Tradition

▼Intro/Review

- Death of JtB
- Feeding of the 5K, to teach disciples
- Walking on water, to teach disciples
- Healing, Messianic sign

▼15:1-20

▼15:1-9

- ▼15:1-2 **break** - to go beyond, around. Like seeing a "no trespassing" sign and going around and beyond it anyway.
 - This is the essence of sin; to go around and beyond God's signs that indicate "Danger Ahead."
 - Describe hand-washing with half-egg of water, possible demon superstition.
- ▼15:3 **tradition** - a teaching that is handed down.
 - Whose tradition? Not God's. Can refer to God's teachings or man's.
 - Usually start out useful, get turned into "laws."
 - Usually based around customs. Drinking, clothing, socializing.
 - Sometimes theological or spiritual practices. Style of worship, church govt., ppl of influence.
 - We cannot use tradition to filter truth. We must use truth to filter tradition.

▼15:4 The truth

- honor** - to recognize and give the appropriate weight and value to something or someone. Economic term. Simple comparison, a coupon. Silly comparison, **golden ticket**.
- revile** - has more to do with addressing the motives of a person than it does categorizing someone as evil. In this case, people were supposed to take care of their aging parents. When parents reminded their kids of this, the kids would write them off as being selfish. Explained in next verses.

▼15:5-7

- People would give the funds to take care of their parent's retirement to the temple, but it could still be accessed for personal use. Like a bank account.
- made void** - connected to word for "Lord," means to disregard the authority. It's still God's word, just side-stepped.
- hypocrite** - an actor

▼15:8-9

- far** - idea is at arms length or farther
- vain worship** - empty but sincere, misguided. People can be sincere, sincerely wrong. Jennifer Knapp, gay yellow pages phone call. "Saving Jesus" add and video (Bryan McLaren).
- Remember, understand that most Pharisees loved God, they thought that all of this was part of living a holy life. Saul's persecution of Christians was an act of devotion to God. Yet they were dead wrong.
- Do you have any traditions that trump God's truth?
- Do you follow, or have you created things that seem Godly but actually contradict God's truth?
- Is it possible that in your attempts to worship God, you are actually holding Him at arms length and your worship is empty to Him?

▼15:10-20

- 15:10-11 **defiles** - makes common, emphasis on being not-set-apart. Assumes that the thing is special already. We are made in the image of God. Pretty special! When we sin we defile that

image, make it not special.

- 15:12-14 Not worried about being seeker friendly.

- 15:15-20 It's about the heart! People want to change from the outside inward. Not possible.

Change comes from the inside outward. Need a new heart, new Spirit, new nature, change from the inside out.

▼15:21-39 More lessons for the disciples. Preview of things to come with the gentiles.

- 15:21-28 filthy english pig dogs!

- 15:29-31 Suffer from the same things as the Jews. Not because they are gentiles but because they are people.

- 15:32-39 Really? Again?

▼Wrapup

- This is the essence of sin; to go around and beyond God's signs that indicate "Danger Ahead."

- Is it possible that in your attempts to worship God, you are actually holding Him at arms length and your worship is empty to Him?

- Change comes from the inside outward. Need a new heart, new Spirit, new nature, change from the inside out.