

Tradition and Truth

Matthew 14:34-15:20

February 28, 2016

Tradition over Truth

Religious Leaders confront Jesus concerning their tradition

- *¹Then 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.”*

Jesus responds with the Truth

- *³He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ⁵But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” ⁶he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.*
 - **Mark 7:11**
- *⁷You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸“This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*
 - **Isaiah 29:13**

Truth over Tradition

Jesus teaches the crowds the Truth

- *¹⁰And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”*

Jesus teaches the Disciples the Truth

- *¹²Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”*
- *¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” ¹⁶And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”*
 - **Matthew 12:34-35**

So What?

- **Am I trying to meet my greatest need with tradition or Truth?**
 - **John 3:1-3, 16-21**