

**Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings**

## **Tradition**

**Matthew 15:1-20**

*I might get in trouble again today!*

## **Tradition!**

Tevia's song in Fiddler on the Roof

Breaking traditions, being more flexible for love

## **Having traditions is a good thing!**

- Family (my brother taking out his daughter every year on her birthday)
- Holidays (Christmas fireplace, Thanksgiving turkey, Easter ham)
- Culture (fireworks on 4th of July, Wings at the Superbowl)
- Gives a level of peace, security, comfort

## **We shouldn't be so quick to destroy any and all tradition**

(it's a thing lately in the West)

**Proverbs 22:28** - Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set.

Study in Proverbs - the people before you did things for a reason, were wise about it

## **But that doesn't mean we accept tradition without consideration or hold tradition too high**

It's good to ask WHY we do things, and not just DO them

## **Not all tradition is good!**

Some cultures had tradition of human sacrifice

Other cultures have tradition of abusing children (Afghanistan)

## **Today: Relationship > Tradition**

**Even a good tradition can be bad if exalted above relationship**

**Tradition can protect or reveal good things**

**But tradition help in the wrong way destroys life**

**Certain forced traditions. Valentine's day...**the expectation of a sign of love can kill the joy of the love

*“Often the best prayers are short and passionate...Prayer ought to be frequent and fervent. A legalistic commitment to duration can kill one’s prayer life.” DOAGM pp. 104*

## **[Pray]**

### **15:1-3**

#### **Scribes & Pharisees**

Educated, literate, extremely religious. Leaders of the people. Just a fact of life. Not necessarily the people’s choice. There over years and years of tradition and rule.

*Old money hates new money*

An official delegate from Jerusalem.

**They had heard about Jesus. His miracles. The healings. The teachings.  
What’s the first thing they ask about?**

### **... Washing of hands**

**They didn’t know about germs (although God did)**

**This was about ceremonial cleansing  
A tradition for it.**

*So closely guarded they compared eating without washed hands to being with a prostitute.*

- Washing of hands during sacrificial ceremonies
- Sickness
- Even hygiene

*Water dripping down the hand past the wrist and elbow  
Similar to how a doctor washes*

**Their concern was not that the disciples were clean  
(physically or ceremonially)**

**They were merely upset the tradition was broken**

**They're probably thinking:** These folks claim to be religious teachers, claim to know God, yet they purposely break the tradition!

## Jesus doesn't disagree!

"Why do you ALSO transgress..."

- The disciples transgress a tradition
- The Pharisees and Scribes transgress God's law WITH their tradition

**:4-9**

**Jesus compares:**

**God said...**

**You said...**

**God said - honor your dad and mom**

**"The first commandment with promise"**

**10 Commandments**

- 1-4 us and God
- 5-10 us and others

**First commandment between people**

**Exodus 20:12** - "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

**The sliding scale...**

honor on one end, curse on the other

**The result of honor? Blessing.**

**The result of cursing? Death.**

*Whole 'nother message in there...*

**Jesus is refuting their accusation with the Word of God (just like with satan)**

So important for us to have the Word of God as our basis for every point of view, every opinion, every doctrine

### **God's Word must be the foundation of everything!**

Thought, principle, tradition, organization, decision

**Ephesians 2:19-22** - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner[stone]**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**John 1:1-5** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

### **What do they do?**

Mark gives us some more insight

**Mark 7:8-13** - "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "[All too] well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me [is] Corban"--' (that is, a gift [to God]), "then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

**Basically, they've come into some money, their lives have been blessed by their parents, but now it's time to turn around and bless their parents...but like a sneaky tax write off, they say, oh no, the thing I'd bless you with is really something I'm giving to God.**

**It's corban!**

### **Selfishness shrouded in religion!**

**Religion is about self, not about God!**

Look what I'VE DONE, how good I AM, be more like ME, because I'M GREAT  
I'm CLEAN and made myself clean!

**They've replaced God's commands with men's commands!**

**It's much easier to keep men's commands!**

*Scene from Raiders of the Lost Ark...weighing the sand out to swap out for the gold idol, the whole building crumbles down*

**It's why God wants children to learn to obey their parents**

*It's easier to obey a parent than God*

*And learning to obey a parent teaches you how to obey God!*

**The words from Isaiah 29...**

Matthew 15:8-9 NKJV - 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men.' "

**The outside looks clean. The outside is religious. But the heart?  
Not even close to being godly.**

**Robes. Tradition. Ceremony. Words. Style of speaking.  
All have a manner of looking holy...to men.  
But not to God.**

**Matthew 23:1-11** - Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, [that] observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay [them] on men's shoulders; but they [themselves] will not move them with one of their fingers. **"But all their works they do to be seen by men.** They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. **"They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'** "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

**In vain they worship me...do not take the name of the Lord in vain  
It's not real worship!**

**Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**

The religious among us exalts something a man said as equal with what God said...in fact, higher than what God said.

**If you're saying your tradition is equal with scripture. You're saying it's higher than scripture. Because it overrides scripture which teaches the opposite.**

**Psalm 138:2d** - I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

**Is your word, his idea, their practice, greater than Jesus, THE WORD?**

**:10-11**

**Jesus using food again. We all love food.  
It's something we all can simply understand.**

**This is what I was pointing to the other week...  
You cannot be spiritually defiled, in Christ, by what you eat.**

**1 Corinthians 8:4** - Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol [is] nothing in the world, and that [there is] no other God but one.

*You chew it, you swallow it, you digest it, your body takes what it needs, you leave the waste behind.*

*It might go into your arteries, but it won't go into your spiritual heart*

**You AREN'T what you eat - physically.  
You ARE what you eat - spiritually.**

*Old computing ... garbage in, garbage out  
Not to say if you're just eating potato chips you're going to be Arnold Schwazeneggar  
in his prime*

*But you can eat potato chips all day and still go to heaven, still be justified in God's sight*

**What kind of shape is your spiritual heart in?**

*Is it a spiritual couch potato?  
Or is it a spiritually strong, bearing fruit, works worthy of repentance?*

## **:12-14**

### **The disciples again...you know you offended them, right?**

The offended society is nothing new

#### **Usually the most offended are the most religious!**

The people in the world are offended because, like it or not, they have a religion!

**And Jesus offends all religions. Especially those with his name on it.**

### **Jesus says, “Let them alone...”**

Again, the opposite of what the advice is today to bend the knee

Jesus says ... Let them be offended. Let them go their own way.

They're so bent on it, nothing you can do will change it. Leave them behind (even to die)

Your words. Your conviction. Your adherence to the truth. Your not going with them in their sin is what God will use to get their attention. To call them to repentance.

**Why would they repent if you're the one turning away from God's word to agree with them? To approve of them? To beg them?**

## **:15-20**

### **Peter...again...uh, explain Jesus? A little help?**

**Jesus says “Are you still without understanding?”**

**How do you not get it by now, Peter?**

**Sadly, the church is largely this way, too...not having even read the Bible**

**Hebrews 5:12** - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

*all over X, YouTube, sayings, clips practices, clearly not even Biblical, and clearly ANTI biblical, new age, pagan, worldly)*

**What comes out of the body after eating, excrement. Dirty. Gross. Smelly.**

**What comes out of the heart, naturally? Spiritual Excrement.**

- **Evil thoughts** dwelling on the thoughts is sin
- **All this stuff starts with the heart, dwells in the thoughts, comes out of the mouth, and is carried about by the body**

**Defile** - koy-no-o

- to make common
- to make (Leviticallly) unclean, render unhallowed, defile, profane
- to declare or count unclean

**Same word here, Peter's vision on the roof**

**Acts 10:15** - And a voice [spoke] to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**What Jesus came to wash was the heart.**

**No amount of soap, scrubbing or avoidance can fix it.**

**Only His blood.**

**Tradition can be transgression.**

**Move on from tradition to relationship.**

**Changing your behavior won't fix your heart.**

**Let God cleanse your heart, then your behavior will be pleasing to Him.**

**Read Romans 14:1-13 to close**