

## Matthew 15:1-20 **Men's Traditions Make Commandments of God Ineffective**

### Traditions of the Elders – Oral Law

<sup>1</sup> Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

### Commandment of God made ineffective by Oral Law of men

<sup>3</sup> He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' <sup>5</sup> But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"-- <sup>6</sup> then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

### Hypocrisy

<sup>7</sup> Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

<sup>8</sup> 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth,  
And honor Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far from Me.  
<sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

### Explanation to the multitude – Defiled from Within.

<sup>10</sup> When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand: <sup>11</sup> Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

### Pharisees were offended

<sup>12</sup> Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

### If the Blind lead the Blind, they will both fall

<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

### Deeper Explanation – True Defilement is from the heart

<sup>15</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup> So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Commandments of men oppose and nullify the commandments of God [Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23]

Traditions of the Elders – Oral Law [Matthew 15:1-2]

✚ Scribes and Pharisees pushing man made Oral Law traditions which they hold at the same level of validity as the Laws of God, and they claim they were given by God at Mount Sinai (Horeb) as Oral Laws.

✧ "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." [Matthew 15:1-2]

### Commandment of God made ineffective by Oral Law of men [Matthew 15:3-6]

✚ Jesus said that the Oral Law was based on the commandments of men and not from God.

✧ Jesus illustrated what He meant by asking them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

✧ Jesus used the commandment to Honor your father and mother, and the twist the Oral law had made of it, to illustrate His point.

✧ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

### Hypocrisy of men's tradition [Matthew 15:7-9]

✚ Allowing the commandments of men, Oral Law, to override the commandment of God is Hypocrisy.

✧ This Hypocrisy fulfills the words of the prophecy of Isaiah.

"Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths

And honor Me with their lips,

But have removed their hearts far from Me,

And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men."

[Isaiah 29:13]

### Explanation to the multitude – Defiled from Within [Matthew 15:10-11]

✚ That which goes into the mouth does not defile a man.

✚ What comes out of the mouth is the thing that defiles a man.

### Pharisees were offended [Matthew 15:12]

✚ When the traditions one has been standing on and enforcing for so many years as taught by the denominational position of ones Church organization, comes under criticism, a person, especially a religious leader, suddenly becomes offended by the correction.

✧ This is a revelation of the normal heart of mankind, and is as true today as it was then.

✧ Many denominational doctrines of the Church today would receive the same condemnation from Jesus as did the doctrine of the Pharisees at that time.

### If the Blind lead the Blind, they will both fall [Matthew 15:13-14, Luke 6:39]

✚ The simple answer Jesus gave is a revelation of the standing of manmade doctrine on the Day of Judgment.

✧ The result of false doctrine is that it not only causes the teacher of the error to fall, but it brings down the one who was deceived by the false doctrine. They both fall together.

✧ Jesus warns us of false teachers of the last days by saying:

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." [Matthew 24:4-5, 11, Mark 13:5-6, 22, 2 Timothy 3:13]

### Deeper Explanation – True Defilement is from the heart [Matthew 15:15-20]

✚ At Peter's request, Jesus went into more detail to explain the teaching.

✧ What goes into the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated.

✧ The things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart.

✚ Defilement is from the heart.

✧ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

✧ For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. [Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45]

