

The Emptiness of (Man-Made) Tradition, Ritual, Ceremony, Works

Mark 07: 01-13

(Mt. 15:1-9)

<p>1. <i>Tradition can be placed before need</i></p> <p>a. The religionists found fault with Jesus' disciples</p> <p>b. The fault: Eating with unwashed and unclean hands</p> <p> 1) The tradition of cleanliness explained</p> <p> 2) The tradition illustrated</p> <p>c. The charge against the disciples: Was brought to Jesus</p> <p>2. <i>Tradition can be hypocritical honour</i></p> <p>3. <i>Tradition can be empty, worthless worship</i></p> <p>4. <i>Tradition can be man-made commands</i></p> <p>5. <i>Tradition can be kept before the commands of God</i></p>	<p>1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and</p> <p>2 saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed.</p> <p>3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.</p> <p>4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)</p> <p>5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?”</p> <p>6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.</p> <p>7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’</p> <p>8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”</p> <p>9 And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!</p> <p>10 For Moses said, ‘Honour your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’</p>
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<p>a. They twisted God's commands</p> <p>b. They insisted on obedience to tradition</p> <p>6. <i>Tradition can nullify the Word of God or make the Word of God ineffective</i></p>	<p>11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God),</p> <p>12 Then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.</p> <p>13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."</p>
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