

20-- Disregarding Tradition

Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23

1. Jesus, so far, has spent much time in Galilee north of Jerusalem. Who comes to Jesus “from Jerusalem” and what do they immediately complain about to Him (Matthew 15:1-2; Mark 7:1-5)?
2. What Biblical passage do these fault-finding men refer to as they lodge their complaint about Jesus and His disciples?
3. Rather than answer the question of this group from Jerusalem, how does Jesus respond (Matthew 15:3)? What example does he cite to point out their misplaced standards (15:4-6; Mark 7:9-13)? What does the word “Corban” mean?
4. What were the results of this emphasis of “*the scribes and Pharisees*” upon tradition (Matthew 15:6-9; Mark 7:6-9)? How did it affect their reputation, their worship, and their doctrine?
5. In Matthew 15:10-11 and Mark 7:14-16 Jesus addresses the multitude concerning the complaints registered by the Pharisees? What does Jesus indicate the Pharisees failed to understand?
6. How did the “Pharisees” feel about being indirectly “preached at” by Jesus (Matthew 15:12; Mark 7:17)? Does Jesus back down from speaking the truth just because of the negative reaction of others?

7. Who, ultimately, will one day uproot teaching that is not Biblically-rooted (Matthew 15:13)? What does Jesus suggest His disciples do with reference to the Pharisees' unjust and unscriptural leadership (Matthew 15:14)? What will happen if blind people are led by blind people?



8. Jesus is not as concerned with outer and physical uncleanness as He is the uncleanness of the heart. What kinds of sins indicate a heart that is unclean (Matthew 15:16-20; Mark 7:18-23)?

9. Next to each word below, please briefly define or explain how it is displayed in our lives...

- “evil thoughts” —
- “fornication” —
- “adultery” —
- “murder” —
- “theft” —
- “covetousness” —
- “wickedness” —
- “deceit” —
- “lewdness” —
- “evil eye” —
- “blasphemy” —
- “pride” —
- “foolishness” —

10. What are some of the traditions we see bound upon some in the religious world today which are blindly followed? Are there any traditions within the church you have noticed which are bound as laws?