

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 15 v. 10-14

- Review from last week (v.1-9)
 - Religious leaders accused the Disciples of breaking the traditions of the Elders (and Jesus of allowing it).
 - Specifically in reference to handwashing.
 - Jesus then answers the Pharisee's original charge by asking them to reply by answering why they “**broke the commandment of God for the sake of their traditions**” in **verse 3**
 - In the end Jesus is not ignoring Old Testament law, He is accurately expressing it (**Matthew 5:19–20**).

- **15:10 “When He had called the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear and understand...”**
 - Jesus has been speaking with the leaders, but now has something to say to the crowds.
 - He has rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for what they are doing and now wants to use this to say something of value to the multitude.
 - **“Hear and understand.”**
 - Self explanatory - if they listen they SHOULD understand.
There is no reason for them not to understand what Jesus is saying.

- **15:11 “...Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”**
 - The word “defile” means “to make common.”
 - The Pharisees believed they were demonstrating religious faithfulness by following the traditions of leaders who had come before them.
 - One tradition which had become a requirement was ritual hand-washing before eating.
 - Was this a command of Scripture?
 - Bread eaten with dirty hands is not going to defile the bread or the eater.
 - But traditions, words of men that contradict the Law of God, those defile the man!
 - Is Jesus really talking about things that make a person physically unclean or something else?

- **15:12 “Then His disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?’”**
 - Point of interest - Mark's writing includes the detail that Jesus and the disciples went into a house before having this conversation (**Mark 7:17**). This exchange does not take place within hearing of the people or the Pharisees.

- Offended = “caused to stumble” (same term found in **Matt 13:41 & 57**).
- It upset the disciples that Jesus had offended these respected men from Jerusalem.
- Do people ever allow our respect for different people outweigh our zeal for the truth?
- Fact - The false teachers needed to be exposed for taking people away from salvation.
- Should it have been surprising that the Pharisees took issue with what Jesus said?
 - He was challenging the very basis of their teaching and rulemaking.
- **15:13 “But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted...’”**
 - What plants is Jesus speaking about?
 - Can we see a similarity between this teaching and the parable of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares? (**Mt 13:24-30**)
- **15:14 “...Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”**
 - Jesus now tells His disciples to leave the Pharisees alone.
 - Isn’t this the same message as **Matthew 7:6**?
 - They aren't to debate with them or worry about them.
 - Jesus literally turned around and started speaking to the crowds instead of continuing the debate between the scribes and Pharisees.
 - This doesn't mean that that Jesus stops debating these men during his ministry but does agree with what he told his disciples in **Matthew 10:14**
 - Does this remove our responsibility to address wrong in the world?
 - Scripture commands believers to be ready to answer those who challenge their faith (**1 Peter 3:15–16**)
 - Every error will be dealt with by God.
 - Jesus and His disciples could not (and we cannot) waste time with men like this to the neglect of the multitude.
 - Jesus did not do this; He taught the multitude.
 - Compare this to what Paul tells Titus regarding false teachers in **Titus 3:10-11**
 - How can we apply this to our lives?