

“Real Devotion” - Matthew 15:1-11, 16-20

Ask - Why are people taught to wash their hands before they eat?

Background - Jesus was regularly confronted by the Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests, scribes, and/or other Jewish religious groups. They were threatened by Him, His message, and His ministry so they sought to undermine His work. We see this again in today's lesson.

“Broken Rules” - Matthew 15:1-6

(v1-2) What did the Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus' disciples of doing?

(v3-4) How did Jesus answer their question? What laws did He refer to? Read Exodus 20:12 and 21:17.

(v5-6) In what specific way were the scribes and Pharisees breaking God's law?

THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES WERE ACCUSING JESUS' DISCIPLES OF BREAKING THE ELDERS' TRADITIONS WHILE THEY THEMSELVES WERE INVALIDATING HIS LAWS.

“Lip Service” - Matthew 15:7-11

(v7-9) What word did Jesus use to describe the Pharisee and scribes? What verse did He cite? From which prophet? Read Isaiah 29:13.

(v10) After rebuking the Pharisees and scribes, who did Jesus turn His attention to? What did He want them to do?

(v11) What principle did Jesus teach to the people? How did this differ from what they had been taught?

JESUS CALLED THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES HYPOCRITES AND USED A VERSE FROM ISAIAH TO DESCRIBE THEIR BEHAVIOR.

“Real Problem” - Matthew 15:16-20

(v16-17) What did Jesus say regarding the things which a person eats (goes into the mouth and through the body)?

(v18-19) What did Jesus say regarding the things which come out of a person's mouth? What are some examples that He gave?

(v20) How does Jesus compare these 2 things? What is the lesson that He is

teaching?

JESUS TAUGHT THAT IT IS NOT THE THINGS WE EAT WHICH DEFILE US,
BUT RATHER THE EXPRESSIONS THAT COME OUT OF OUR MOUTHS.

Application - Biblical legalism is the idea that salvation or God's favor is earned through strict obedience to laws, rules, and/or traditions. However, the Bible teaches that salvation only comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The Pharisees and scribes were legalists who harshly chastised those who were "disobedient" in their eyes, not realizing that they themselves were also guilty and in need of grace. The condition of our heart is much more important than dietary laws and/or man's traditions. What is the most meaningful part of today's lesson to you?