



SUNDAY CLASS

2/8/09

Key Verses: Matthew 15: 1-9

Matthew 15:1-9 (New International Version)

Clean and Unclean

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, 2"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother'^[a] and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.- But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to 'honor his father'^[c] with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

*" These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men"*

In this chapter, we have our Lord Jesus, as the great Prophet teaching, as the great Physician healing, and as the great Shepherd of the sheep feeding; as the Father of spirits instructing them; as the Conqueror of Satan dispossessing him; and as concerned for the bodies of his people, providing for them.

Here is, I. Christ's discourse with the scribes and Pharisees about human traditions and injunctions (v. 1-9).

II. His discourse with the multitude, and with his disciples, concerning the things that defile a man (v. 10-20).

III. His casting of the devil out of the woman of Canaan's daughter (v. 21-28).

IV. His healing of all that were brought to him (v. 29-31).

V. His feeding of four thousand men, with seven loaves and a few little fishes (v. 32-30).

Matthew 15:1 (New International Version)

Clean and Unclean

1Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked,

“Here, is the cavil of the scribes and Pharisees at Christ’s disciples, for eating with unwashed hands. The scribes and Pharisees were the great men of the Jewish church, men whose gain was godliness, great enemies to the gospel of Christ, but coloring their opposition with a pretence of zeal for the law of Moses, when really nothing was intended but the support of their own tyranny over the consciences of men. They were men of learning and men of business. These scribes and Pharisees here introduced were of Jerusalem, the holy city, the head city, whither the tribes went up, and where were set the thrones of judgment; they should therefore have been better than others, but they were worse.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Mark 7:1-23 (New International Version)

Clean and Unclean

1The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and 2saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. 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. 4When 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.^[a])

5So 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?"

6He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

7They worship me in vain;

their teachings are but rules taught by men.^[b] 8You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

9And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe^[c] your own traditions! 10For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,^[d] and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.^[e] 11But 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), 12then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. 13Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. *15* Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.' ¹⁴

17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. *18* "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? *19* For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' *21* For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, *22* greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. *23* All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

***Note, Those who are most zealous of their own impositions, are commonly most careless of God's commands; which is a good reason why Christ's disciples should stand upon their guard against such impositions, lest, though at first they seem only to infringe the liberty of Christians, they come at length to confront the authority of Christ."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE



Matthew 23:23-31 (New International Version)

23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. *24* You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. *26* Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

27"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

29"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets.

Mark 3:22 (New International Version)

22And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul^[a]! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

John 1:19 (New International Version)

John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ

19Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

Matthew 15:2 (New International Version)

2"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

Matthew 10:1 (New International Version)

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

1He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 26:56 (New International Version)

56But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Mark 3:7 (New International Version)

Crowds Follow Jesus

7Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake and a large crowd from Galilee followed.

Mark 16:20 (New International Version)

*20*Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Luke 6:13 (New International Version)

*13*When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

John 12:16 (New International Version)

*16*At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Luke 11:38 (New International Version)

*38*But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

Galatians 1:14 (New International Version)

*14*I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Colossians 2:8 (New International Version)

*8*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Hebrews 11:2 (New International Version)

*2*This is what the ancients were commended for.

Matthew 15:3 (New International Version)

*3*Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Matthew 15:4 (New International Version)

*4*For God said, 'Honor your father and mother'^[a] and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

Exodus 20:12 (New International Version)

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16 (New International Version)

"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:2 (New International Version)

2"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—

Exodus 21:17 (New International Version)

17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Leviticus 20:9 (New International Version)

9 "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head.

Matthew 15:5 (New International Version)

5But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,'

Matthew 15:6 (New International Version)

6he is not to 'honor his father^a' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

***Note, That which men say, even great men, and learned men, and men in authority, must be examined by that which God saith; and if it be found either contrary or inconsistent, it may and must be rejected, Acts 4:19.**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 15:7 (New International Version)

7You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

Matthew 15:8 (New International Version)

*8" These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.*

Matthew 15:9 (New International Version)

*9They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

Isaiah 29:13 (New International Version)

*13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.*

Ezekiel 33:31 (New International Version)

*31 My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them
into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.*

Colossians 2:22 (New International Version)

22These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

Titus 1:14 (New International Version)

14and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.



John 14:6 (New International Version)

6Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.