

The Life of Jesus Christ
Lesson 11 - In Galilee And Beyond
 April 1, 2020
 Traditions and Purity –
 Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

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Commands versus Traditions
 Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

“Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem ...” (verse 1)

- Not a social visit! It’s approximately 120 miles and as Pharisees, they would not have taken the most direct route through Samaria.

“Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders?” (verse 2)

How so?

“For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” (verse 2)

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Commands versus Traditions
 Matthew 15:1-21

“Traditions” – a handing down orally or in writing. It can address something either positive or negative.

Negative uses:

- *“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men ... rather than according to Christ.”* (Colossians 2:8)
- *“I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.”* (Galatians 1:14)

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Commands versus Traditions
 Matthew 15:1-21

Negative uses:

- *“The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, ‘Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?’ ... ‘Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.’ ... setting aside the commandment of God to keep your tradition.”* (Mark 7:5-9)
- Isaiah spoke of those whose only fear and respect is for the commands of men. (Isaiah 29:13-16)

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Commands versus Traditions
 Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

Human traditions	Divine Commands
<i>“Observing the tradition of the elders”</i> (verse 3)	<i>“Neglecting the commandment of God ...”</i> (verse 8)
<i>“Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders”</i> (verse 5)	
<i>“...Hold the traditions of men.”</i> (verse 8)	
<i>“... keep your tradition.”</i> (verse 9)	<i>“... experts at setting aside the commandment of God ...”</i> (verse 9)
<i>“... your tradition which you have handed down ...”</i> (verse 13)	<i>“... invalidating (making void; ASV) the word of God ...”</i> (verse 13)

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Commands versus Traditions
 Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

Consequences of human tradition:

- *“Transgress the commandment of God”* – (verse 3)
 - Go aside or overstep. (Hebrews 2:1-3)
- *“Invalidated the word of God”* – (verse 6)
 - Deprive of force or authority. (Galatians 3:17)
- *“Heart is far from Me”* – (verse 8)
 - If our heart is far from God, where is it? (Colossians 3:1-2)
- *“In vain do they worship Me”* – (verse 9)
 - Vain is empty or worthless - no value. (Malachi 1:10; Isaiah 1:13-15)
- *“Shall be uprooted”* – (verse 13)
 - Judged and condemned. (Jude 12; 2 Chronicles 7:20; Jeremiah 18:7)
- *“Fall into a pit”* – (verse 14)
 - They take others down with them. (2 Peter 2:2-3; 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:14)

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Commands versus Traditions
Matthew 15:1-21

Who establishes tradition to be followed?

“The *Catechism* declares that “[a]s a result the [Catholic—MP] Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. **Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence**” (1994, 82, emphasis added). Other Catholic authorities have declared: “It is an article of faith from a decree of the Vatican Council that **Tradition is a source of theological teaching distinct from Scripture**, and that it is infallible. It is therefore to be received with the **same** internal assent as Scripture for it is the word of God” (Attwater, 1961, page 41, emphasis added).
<http://apologeticpress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&article=1027>

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Commands versus Traditions
Matthew 15:1-21

Who establishes tradition to be followed?

“Catholics allege that “[w]hereas much of the teaching of Scripture could not be determined without Tradition, **Tradition would suffice without Scripture**; it is the safeguard of Scripture” (Attwater, page 42, emphasis added). Moreover, “Catholic theologians maintain that **as a source of truth, tradition is superior to Scripture. Scripture is, after all, incomplete**; it not only requires interpretation, but it **required tradition in order that it might be recognized and established ... Scripture is not a textbook**; in a sense, **it is a dead word** which must be brought to life in the living voice of tradition” (Brantl, 1961, page 162, emphasis added). <http://apologeticpress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&article=1027>

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Positive uses:

- “Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and **hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.**” (1 Corinthians 11:2)
- “So then, brethren, **stand firm and hold to the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” (2 Thessalonians 2:15; cf. 3:6)

These are traditions from God!

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Commands versus Traditions
Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

“Traditions” – Positive uses:

These are traditions from God!

Seeking “**non-traditional**” religion is unscriptural. Many unlearned Christians don’t understand the difference between human and divine traditions and want to throw out both.

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