

The Life of Jesus Christ
Lesson 11 – In Galilee And Beyond

April 8, 2020

Traditions and Purity –
Matthew 15:1-21; Mark 7:1-24

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

The “*doctrines of men*”
(Matthew 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:3; cf. Titus 1:13-16)
versus
The “*teaching (doctrine; KJV) of the Lord*”
(Acts 13:12; cf. 1 Timothy 6:3; Titus 2:1, 10)

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

• “*Doctrine*” (singular) and “*commands*” (plural)

First, we need to establish that the gospel of Jesus Christ contains “*commandments*.”
(John 14:15, 21; 15:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2; 1 John 2:3-5; 5:2-3)

What do we call the sum of God’s commandments?
“*The sum of Your word is truth and every one of your righteous ordinances is everlasting.*”
(Psalms 119:160)

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

From last week’s study:
“*Traditions*” – a handing down.
It can address something either positive or negative.
Negative uses: Colossians 2:8; Galatians 1:14, and these texts noted above.
The danger lies in human traditions that they **neglect, set aside** and **invalidate** God’s word.
The consequences are critical – “*they shall be uprooted,*” and both will “*fall into a pit.*”

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

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 communicated through the apostles by the Holy Spirit!
(Philippians 3:16-17; 4:9)

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Divine Commands versus Human Traditions
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“*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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Divine Commands versus Human Traditions

Matthew 15:1-21

What determines if a "tradition" is to be followed?

- Simple question: who established the tradition?
- God alone determines tradition to be followed. (Galatians 1:6-9)

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Divine Commands versus Human Traditions

Matthew 15:1-21

Are we to be "non-traditionalists"?

- There are traditions that are done for expediencies in keeping the commands of God: many insist these need to be changed.
- Proverbs 24:21-22, "*Do not associate with those who are given to change, for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin that comes from both of them?*"
- What type of person is given to change? Would it not be the spiritually immature and the unstable? (Ephesians 4:14-15)
- Warnings of such people: 1 Timothy 6:3-5; cf. 1:3; Galatians 1:6-9

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Divine Commands versus Human Traditions

Matthew 15:1-21

What determines if a "tradition" is to be followed?Understanding "*ancient paths*":

- Jeremiah 6:16, "*Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.*"

"Ancient" means "**everlasting, evermore, perpetual**" (Thayer) and speaks of divine traditions that continue to be binding ... as opposed to our idea of outdated or outmoded. Used extensively in the Pentateuch to describe God's Law.

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