

Sermon Notes

How Should We Respond to the Truth of the Gospel

Matthew 15.1-20

July 23, 2023

15 Then Jesus was approached by Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem, who asked, **2** “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don’t wash their hands when they eat.”[a]

3 He answered them, “Why do you break God’s commandment because of your tradition? **4** For God said:[b] **Honor your father and your mother;**[c] and, **Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.**[d] **5** But you say, ‘Whoever tells his father or mother, “Whatever benefit you might have received from me is a gift committed to the temple,” **6** he does not have to honor his father.’[e] In this way, you have nullified the word of God[f] because of your tradition. **7** Hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said:

8

This people[g] honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.

9

They worship me in vain,
teaching as doctrines human commands.”[h]
Defilement Is from Within

10 Summoning the crowd, he told them, “Listen and understand: **11** It’s not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth—this defiles a person.”

12 Then the disciples came up and told him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”

13 He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. **14** Leave them alone! They are blind guides.[i] And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

15 Then Peter said, “Explain this parable to us.”

16 “Do you still lack understanding?” he[j] asked. **17** “Don’t you realize[k] that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated?[l] **18** But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. **19** For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false

testimonies, slander. **20** These are the things that defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person.”

Main Idea - **Christ's concern is for your heart.**

3 Responses

The Changing of the Heart

The Pharisees from Jerusalem have again come to challenge Jesus.

We often value tradition over the written word.

Christ's concern is for the heart.

The Pharisees were promising all future giving to the temple which allowed them to not give to their parents or others. This practice is known as type Corban (Mark 7), but you have other things “dedicated” also.

2nd Kings 22.8 is when the book of the law is found

Hebrew 4.12 For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

James 1.26-27 talks about controlling our tongue also

Ezekiel 11.19-20 I will give them integrity of[f] heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone from their bodies[g] and give them a heart of flesh, 20 so that they will follow my statutes, keep my ordinances, and practice them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Is there a time you have been hypocritical with the Word of the Lord?
- 3.) How has honoring your parents been difficult, or how do you struggle through or deal with being dishonored by your children?
- 4.) Have you tried to change your heart on your own? How has that gone? Was it discouraging?
- 5.) If you are a Christian, can you explain something the Lord has changed about your heart to make you more like him? What would you still like him to help you with?
- 6.) Can you encourage someone else in the group with how you have seen the Lord change their heart?
- 7.) Why is it encouraging to know that it is the Lord that changes hearts and not individuals?

8.) From your Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?