

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, March 26, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 84. Traditions and Commandments – Matthew 15:1-20

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Growing in popularity with the crowds that He fed and healed, Jesus is confronted by Pharisees sent from Jerusalem. They have come to examine the outward religiousness of Jesus and His followers. As they fuss about nit-picky, non-essential things, they blatantly break the commandments of God and teach others to do the same by their traditions.

- I. Jesus and the Pharisees – vs. 1-9
 - A. Accusation – Your Disciples Break the Tradition by not Washing Hands
 1. Tradition of the Elders
 2. Mishnah: Washings – to be clean there are regulations for how much water must be used and how many times the water must be poured over the hands
 - B. Response – You Break the Commandment of God with Your Traditions
 1. Honor Your Parents – Exodus 20:12; 21:17
 2. Corban – a gift dedicated to God/the Temple
 - C. Hypocrites – Isaiah 29:13
 1. False worship – lips, mouth, heart
 2. Vain worship – futile – CHS Quote #1
- II. Jesus and the Crowd – vs. 10-11
 - A. Making a Point to Call the Crowd
 - B. What Really Makes One Unclean?
 1. Clean hands and kosher food – Psa. 24:3-4; 15:2-5; Matt. 5:8
 2. A purified heart – Jer. 17:9; Ezek. 36:26; 18:31
 - C. We Need a Changed Nature more than a Clean Body – John 3:7; 2 Cor. 5:17
- III. Jesus and His Disciples – vs. 12-20
 - A. The Pharisees Were Offended – Boice Quote #2
 1. Their offense proves that they are outside the kingdom altogether
 - a. Plants the Father has not planted, they will be uprooted – Matt. 13:25-29, 38-42
 - b. Teaching traditions of men and doctrines of demons – 1 Tim. 4:1-3 – CHS Quote #3
 - c. Blind guides who lead people to the Pit – Matt. 23:30
 - B. Defilement Comes from Within
 1. All foods are clean – purified by the process – Mark 7:9; Acts 10:15, 25-29; Rom. 14:17-18 – CHS Quote #4
 - a. Don't divide over matters of diet, observances or not of so-called holy days, etc.
 - b. What matters? Righteousness, Peace, Joy in the Holy Spirit
 2. From the heart out the mouth – Matt. 5:7; Gal. 5:19-25 – CHS Quote #5
 - a. Evil thoughts
 - b. Murders
 - c. Adulteries/fornications
 - d. Thefts
 - e. False witness
 - f. Blasphemes
 - C. What is Needed to be Clean? – Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:9-14; Rom. 4:1-4 – Ryle Quote #6
 1. Forgiveness
 2. Faith that leads to righteousness

Quotes

1. "Religion based on human authority is worthless; we must worship the true God in the way of His own appointing, or we do not worship Him at all." – CHSpurgeon
2. "Self-righteous people are always offended when we speak about sin or their inability to please God by their own corrupt and wicked ways." – JMBoice
3. "Doctrines and ordinances are only to be accepted when the divine Word supports them and they are to be accepted for that reason only." – CHSpurgeon
4. "Food does not touch the soul, but passes through the body." – CHSpurgeon
5. "If these are the bees, what must the hive be?" – CHSpurgeon
6. "What is the first thing we need in order to be a Christian? A new heart." – JCRyle

Cross References

Exodus 20:12

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

Exodus 21:17

17 "And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Isaiah 29:13

13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

Psalms 24:3-4

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalms 15:2-5

2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Matthew 5:8

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Jeremiah 17:9

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Ezekiel 36:26

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 18:31

31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

John 3:7

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Matthew 13:25-29

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.'

Matthew 13:38-42

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

Matthew 25:30

30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Mark 7:9

9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

Acts 10:15

15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

Acts 10:25-29

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. 28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

Romans 14:17-18

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Galatians 5:19-25

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions,

heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 1:9-14

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 4:1-4

4 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

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