



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 15:1-20” on January 21/24

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 14:22-33 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 15:1-20

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

TRADITION and GOD’S TRUTH: The Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem to see if Jesus was truly the Messiah, but they prioritized their own traditions over the Word of God itself.

- What weaknesses or traditions in the church or in our culture today might stand in the way of the gospel?
- If you grew up in the church, what traditions were upheld there that had no Scriptural basis or were substituted for God’s truth? OR, if you didn’t grow up in the church, where were there traditions that kept you from going?
- What traditions are you still holding onto that conflict with Scripture, and what changes in your thinking about those traditions will allow you to live a life that displays the grace and mercy Jesus offers?

TRADITION AND SIN:

- Since coming to CU church, what traditions have you set aside because they became obstacles in your loving those whose behaviors might be considered wrong or sinful?
- What traditions are you clinging to that obstruct your effectiveness in sharing the gospel and in seeing sinful behaviors in others as Jesus sees them?

INNER AND OUTER CLEANLINESS: Matthew 15:8-9 (Isaiah’s words) “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.” Matthew 15:10 “...it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth that defiles a person.”

- In what areas of your life are you in danger of honoring God with your lips without truly worshipping Him?
- How do you see this happening in our culture and churches today?
- What things might be defiling you – what thoughts are feeding and filling your mind the most right now?
- There is so much emphasis, time, and money directed toward having a healthy physical body today, eating the right foods and exercising – what emphasis, care and nurture will you direct toward your spiritual health, your thoughts and emotions, so that the way you express the gospel makes a difference?

RESPOND

What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?

Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

KEEP READING

Ephesians 2:1-10 where Paul teaches about Jesus and what He gives us all. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 where Paul writes about the most important thing and share part of his grace story.