

Matthew 15 – 24 November 2019

“Good Traditions Serve Good Beliefs”

Introduction

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

We begin to see Him getting attacked at every turn by the religious leaders, Scribes/Pharisees/Sadducees

We'll see a direct frontal assault between a man-made religious system & a simple relationship w/ God

We'll see the proper place for traditions in our life and how our faith in God or “another god” directs all of our actions.

There are even two examples built into the end of this chapter for us.

So let's learn 3 Lessons about beliefs & traditions.

1st Lesson we learn about beliefs & traditions: Traditions should serve the Commandments not vice versa (Vs 1-9)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Scribes/Pharisees: Jewish religious scholars.
2. They washed but didn't do the ritual washing talked about by some Jewish ancestors.

Read Vs 3-6

1. They weren't honoring the commandments of God, but skirting the issues on purpose.
2. The lifestyle and traditions they lived by violated the spirit of the Law.
3. They had made their traditions more important to follow than God's Law.

Read Vs 7-9

1. They say they're following God but most importantly, they're following what they want.
2. Beliefs not behaviors will change a person!

Application

1. Any tradition or rule, guideline that we follow should be subservient to God's Commands.
 - a. Having routine or repeatable events or patterns can be good, as long as they don't violate godly character.
 - b. We should be willing to part with any custom or tradition that doesn't please God.
2. Notice Jesus doesn't try defending their right to not ritually wash their hands.
 - a. Nor does he admit to sinning in not washing
 - b. He talks about the bigger issue: the Pharisees treated their traditions as more important than following God's commands.
 - c. So yes, Jesus violated their tradition of washing.
 - i. He didn't bend over backward to obey made-up rules in order to not offend.
 - ii. Vegans: Why are you eating meat?

Come Back to these verses (Vs 10-11)

1. We'll come back to this short parable.

2nd Lesson we learn about beliefs & traditions: Leave Legalists alone (Vs 12-14)

Read Vs 12

1. Jesus wasn't looking around for ways to offend the people stuck in dead religious traditions.
 - a. But when confronted, He stated the truth.
2. Now, relating to customs and law of the land: Jesus followed them
 - a. Paid the temple tax in Matt 17
3. Relating to religious customs and knowledge of God: Jesus didn't bother with them at all.
4. Your relationship w/ God in that you don't follow man-made customs will naturally offend!!
 - a. Saying "we're helpless" is offensive to the pride of man that wants to work.

Read Vs 13-14

1. How do we respond to legalism?
 - a. Let them alone
 - b. Don't work hard to follow their rules.
 - i. You'll never make them happy
 - ii. There's always another rule to follow
 - iii. It's nothing but an eternal burden!
 - c. Can't fight darkness, but u can spread light

**3rd Lesson we learn about beliefs & traditions:
Belief in God from the heart comes out in actions
& good traditions (Vs 10-11, 15-20)**

Read Vs 15

1. True believers press in to get the full answers.

Read Vs 16-20

1. What is the root of who you are?
 - a. Not your traditions, but your inward heart.
2. Change the heart, changes the person

Example #1 – Belief from the heart demonstrated by a heathen woman (Vs 21-28)

Read Vs 21-24

1. This is a gentile woman – Pharisees traditions would never allow to a Jew to talk with her.
2. She believed that Jesus could help her daughter
3. Vs 24 - Jesus was sent specifically to Israel
 - a. He knew His specific calling.
 - b. There's always more that can be done, but He knew what to be focused on.
 - c. He would call even the gentiles unto Himself after the resurrection.
 - i. Read John 10:16 - Not Mormons

Read Vs 25-28

1. She worshipped b/c she believed He was true
2. Wasn't "proper" for her to come to Him, but it properly showed faith. (Just as He's looking for)
3. Jesus didn't adjust for ritual washing, but did adjust for this women's faith.

Example #2 – Belief from the heart sought for in the disciples (Vs 29-39)

Read Vs 29-31

1. Have you noticed Jesus compassion and love?
2. Do you have something that needs healed?

Take it to Jesus!

Read Vs 32-33

1. Jesus is trying to draw out faith from them.
2. Remember, they just went thru this – fed 5,000
3. This is continually breaking the mold of what their tradition are all about.
 - a. Their tradition said they should serve great teachers.
 - b. Jesus will say (Read Matt 20:28)

Read Vs 34-39

1. This repeated physical miracle is to draw faith out of them, that He can spiritually sustain them!
2. Do you believe He wants to provide for you?

Conclusion –

We've learned 3 Lessons about Belief & Traditions

1. Traditions should serve the Commandments not vice versa
 - a. Are you willing to die to keep your traditions but not willing to die to do what God is asking of you?
2. Leave Legalists alone
 - a. Don't burden yourself with their rules.
 - b. Read Act 15:10
3. Belief in God from the heart comes out in actions & good traditions
 - a. Being born again changes your very heart and motives from then inside.
 - b. Then your actions/traditions will line up!

Be like the Canaanite woman who disobeyed tradition that would have prevented her from coming to Jesus!!

Jesus wants you to believe that He can sustain you