

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 8-4-24
Christianity 102 – Message 39 Part 2
Truth versus Tradition

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The Pharisees watched Jesus close to try and trap Him.
 - a) The issue this time, eating with unwashed hands.
 - 2) We do not struggle with ceremonial washing but with living separate from the world.
 - 3) II Corinthians 6:17 – “separate” – separation and dedication.
 - a) Separation from evil is seen in our behavior.
 - b) Dedication to the service of God is seen by what we say no to.
 - 4) We were reminded that hypocrisy is sin and takes on two forms.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) The truth of worship comes back in to play today because worship is affected by the decision we make each moment of each day.
 - a) God rejects the worship of –
 - 2) Is your worship different today in light of what we learned last week?

2. Truth versus Tradition – It does matter. Mark 7:9

a. Jesus exposed them:

- 1) The leaders were teaching the traditions of men to be of greater importance than the commandments of God.
 - a) They were rejecting the commandment of God.

b. What is at stake here?

- 1) Jesus described their worship as vain worship.
- 2) Application – You are either practicing the tradition of a religion or experiencing the fruits of having a relationship with Jesus.
- 3) There is an eye-opening statement in the Mishna about this very issue.
 - a) “It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict scripture itself.”

3. Jesus gives them an example: Mark 7:10-12

a. Jesus uses the Law. Verse 10

- 1) Remember the purpose of the Law.
- 2) The fifth commandment – “honor thy father and thy mother.”
 - a) Did you know this? Not honoring your parents resulted in death.
 - b) Were these religious leaders in danger?

b. A new tradition emerges. Verse 11

- 1) The word “Corban” means a gift devoted to God.
- 2) The illustration of “Corban” gives proof to this corruption.
 - a) Saying its “Corban” would exempt a person from his responsibility to his parents.

c. What happens when we do something like this? Mark 7:13

- 1) “Making the word of God of none effect (void) through your tradition, which you have delivered: and many such like things ye do.”
 - a) Do we have any such practices in our life that are contrary to God’s Word?
 - b) In their day the key word was tradition. That described the practices of their life that was contrary to God’s Word. Maybe a good word for us to think about is culture.
- 2) There is a conflict between the culture and God’s Word in many things today.
 - a) Conversation – Ephesians 4:29
 - b) Forgiveness – Ephesians 4:32

- c) Behavior – I Thessalonians 4:3
- d) Work Ethic – II Thessalonians 3:10
- e) Morality – Galatians 5:19-21
- 3) This list continues with marriage, when does life begin, gender, family, fatherhood, etc.
- 4. What defiles a man? Mark 7:14-16
 - a. Does clean outside mean clean on the inside.
 - 1) This statement by Jesus was huge to these people.
 - 2) True change, true holy living flows from the heart out into the life.
 - 3) Verse 16 – Are you listening?
 - b. Jesus cleared up any confusion: Mark 7:18-23
 - 1) Clean or unclean foods isn't what defiles a person.
 - 2) What defiles a man? Verse 20
 - 3) Verse 21 – “heart”. “The center seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind as it is the seat of thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes and endeavors.” Thayers
 - c. The heart of man.
 - 1) The human heart, in its natural condition, is evil, treacherous and deceitful.
 - a) Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...”
 - b) While we may not understand our own hearts, God does.
 - d. The list. Verses 21-22
 - 1) This is not a good list.
 - 2) Don't let pride dictate your response today.
- 5. Today's Take Away:
 - a. What if God revealed today that you are following the culture in a particular area of your life and not His Word.
 - b. It has been said that even soldiers can grow weary in battle.