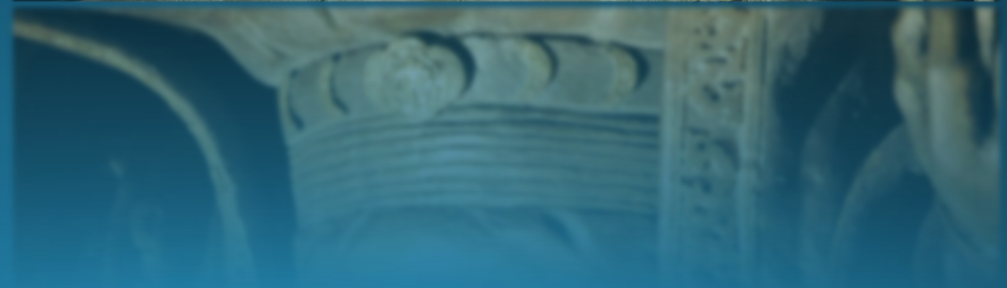
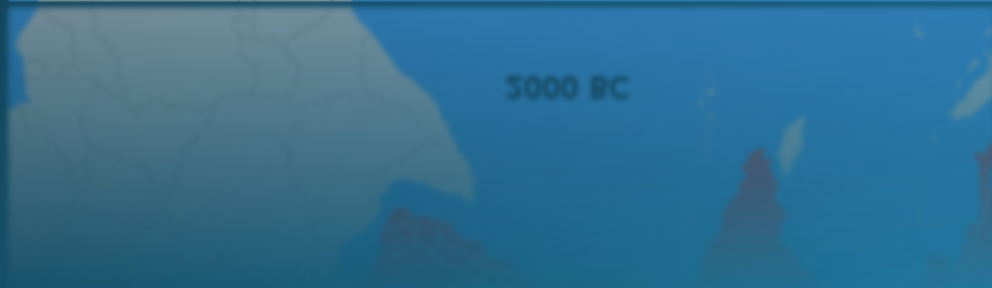
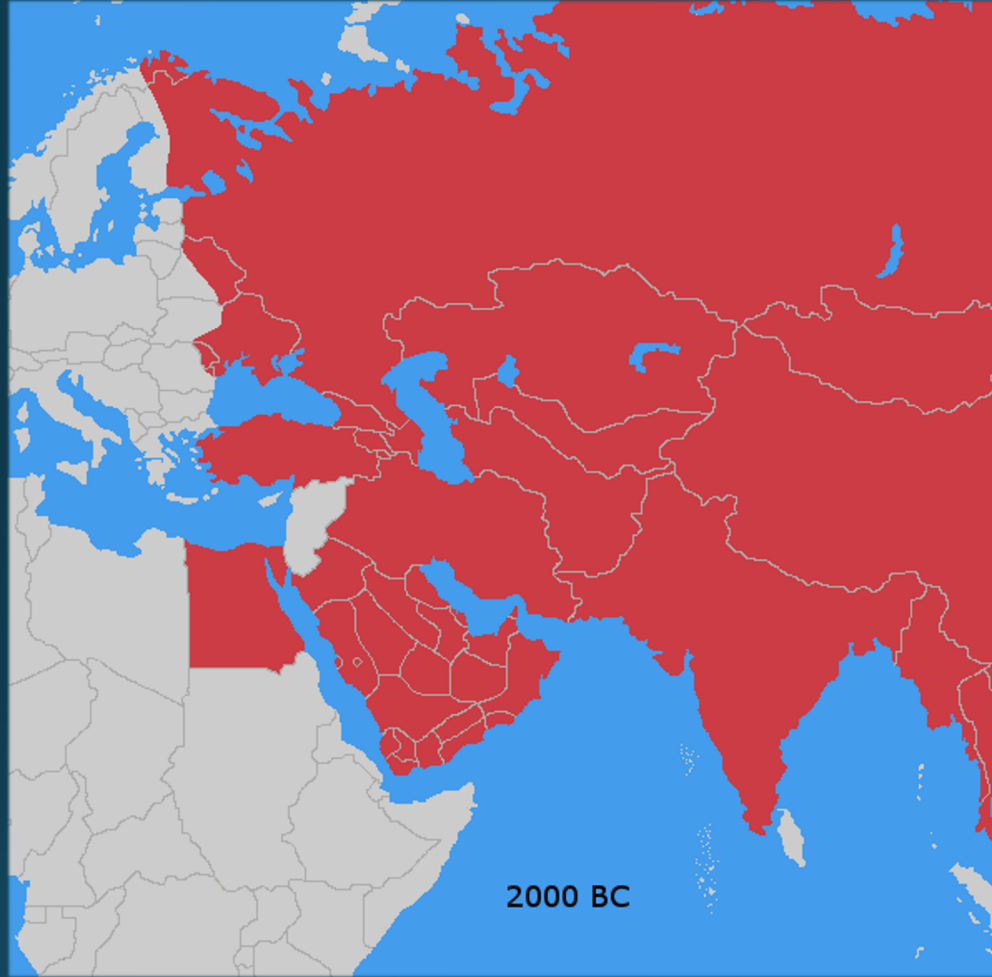


“It’s a Pharisee Family Tradition”



Becoming Certain About the Story

The Gospel of Luke





ADVANCING
THE **KINGDOM** *of* **GOD**

Breaking all the traditions...



- Why are you eating and drinking with sinners?
- Why are your disciples not fasting like everyone else?
- Why are your disciples picking grain on the Sabbath?
- Why are you working (healing) on the Sabbath?

A Primer on Pharisees



- Holy (self-proclaimed), devoted, religious leaders of Israel
 - They started well...
- Moved beyond the Law in order to keep the Law
- Never commended by Jesus
- Instituted twice a week fasting

Luke 5:33

And they said to him,
“The disciples of John fast
often and offer prayers,
and so do the disciples of
the Pharisees, but yours
eat and drink.”

The Pharisee's proclamation

Luke 18:11-12

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

Beyond traditions – fasting in the OT



- Leviticus 16 – Day of Atonement (one day fast)
- Esther 4:16
- 2 Samuel 12

Worship turns to routine rituals...

- *Isaiah 58:3 - 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure and oppress all your workers.*
- *Zechariah 7:4 - 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted?...*

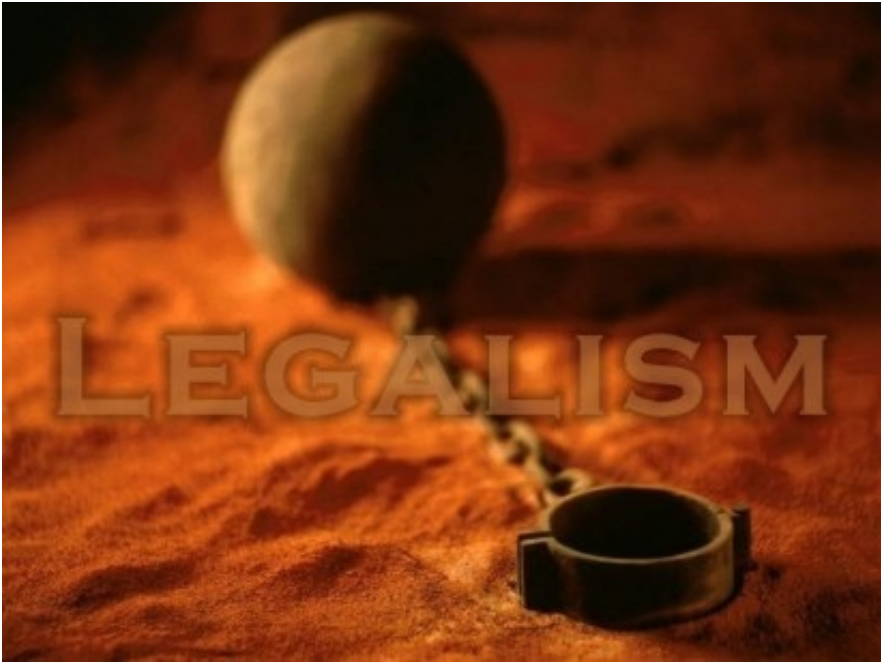
Public displays of self-righteousness



Matthew 6:16-18

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Legalism subtracts the Law



Legalism always reduces the law to mere external compliance

Relationships are not fostered on checklists

Legalism leads to pride or fear

Jesus Responds

Luke 5:34

And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast."

Mission Conference Schedule Simplified

- Saturday – Fasting
- Wednesday – Dinner and Desserts
- Thursday – Dinner and Coffee
- Friday – Dinner
- Saturday – Breakfast, Brunch, International Dinner



VISITORS
START HERE

ABOUT US
CHURCH LIFE

MINISTRIES
SERVING YOU

MISSIONS
SHARING JESUS

RESOURCES
GROW

• Wednesday, March 9

- 5:15pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Missionary Testimonies
- 7:30pm Desserts from Around the World

• Thursday, March 10

- 5:15pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Missionary Round Robin
- 7:30pm Coffee and Conversation

• Friday, March 11

- 5:15pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Worship Service

• Saturday, March 12

- 8:00am Men's Breakfast
- 10:00am Women's Brunch
- 5:15pm International Dinner
- 6:30pm Worship Service

• Sunday, March 13

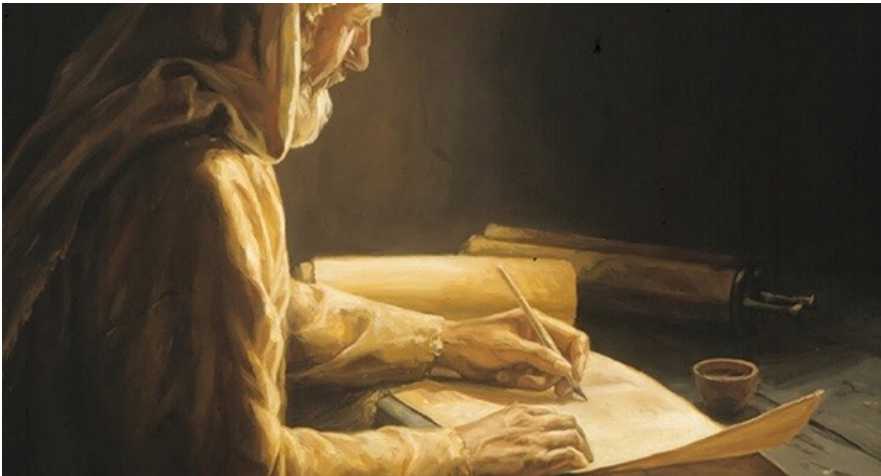
- 8:30 and 11:00am Lord's Day Wo
- 10:00am Sunday School with Mis
- 6:30pm Lord's Day Evening Wors

The absurdity of wedding fasting



- Event of joy, celebration, feasting, fellowship
- 1st century included week-long, community participation
- 1st century bridegroom highly honored

God as Bridegroom



- *Isaiah 54:5 - For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.*
- *Hosea 2: 16, 19-20 "And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.*
- *Revelation 21:7 - Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready*

Jesus predicts His death

Luke 5:35 - The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.

Isaiah 53:8 - By oppression and judgement he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of living, stricken for the transgressions of my people?

Luke 5:36-39

He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'



Traditions vs Traditionalism

- Traditions keep us rooted, give us identity, connect us to our past.
- Traditionalism exalts 'the way we've always done it' over everything else.
- We must repent of both sin and self-righteousness

