

Jesus Critiques Our Man-Made Traditions Matthew 15:1-20 (Page 975 in the pew Bible)

1. Watch the Pharisees confront Jesus about his failure to enforce their legalistic requirements.

Matthew 15: 1-2 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”

Matthew 12:14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

2. Listen to Jesus critique their man-made religion.

Matthew 15:3 – 9 He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 5 But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” 6 he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. 7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

3. As Jesus speaks to the crowd he wants us to “hear and understand” - moral defilement is much more serious than ritual defilement.”

Matthew 15:10 – 11 And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

Mark 7:18-19 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

Colossians 2:20-23 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, **why**, as if you were still alive in the world, **do you submit to regulations**— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—**according to human precepts and teachings?** These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

