

Matthew Chapter 15

Matthew 15:1

Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

The center of Jewish authority came to scrutinize Jesus. The Pharisees were one of the three sects of Judaism in the time of Christ.

The name means separated by special works. Jesus wasn't abiding by the Levitical law of impurity as they were. The scribes were the keeper of the records and they didn't see anything in the scrolls about the works Jesus was performing.

Matthew 15:2

Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

The Jewish leaders were more concerned about keeping the tradition rather than sanitation. Jesus had just finished healing the sick and diseased, most likely His disciples also were laying hands as well. The leaders should have been over-joyed with the people being healed whereas they were more concerned about His disciples not washing their hands.

Matthew 15:3

But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Many Jews believed in addition to the written law that was given to Moses that an oral law was also given which caused an addition to the law of God, thereby causing the people to live according to traditions instead of God's law.

Matthew 15:4

For God commanded, saying, Honor thy Father and mother: and He that curseth Father or Mother, Let him die the death.

Jesus was reiterating to them the fifth commandment that was given by God to Moses. By them denying service or relief to parents was included in cursing them.

Matthew 15:5

But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his Father or his mother, It is a gift (dedicated to the temple) by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; This was known as the law of Corban. Anyone who made a Corban vow was required to dedicate money that otherwise would have gone to support his parent to a worthy cause, usually the Temple. Corban had become a religiously acceptable way to neglect parents.

Matthew 15:6

And honor not his father or his mother,

he shall be free.

Thus have ye made the commandments of God of none effect by your tradition. The Pharisees were disobeying God's clear commandment to honor their parents.

They bestowed more love and honor on the Temple than for their parents.

Matthew 15:7

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Jesus told them they were hypocrites, they were professing their belief, but wasn't possessing them. Today people profess they're Christians, but you don't see the fruit of the Spirit being manifested in them. Attending church, but live according to their wills and not the will of God.

Matthew 15:8

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their hearts is far from me.

When we claim to honor God and our hearts are far from Him, our worship

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means nothing. God wants our worship to be in spirit and in truth. If we worship any other way other than the way He has instructed us, it means nothing in the ears of God.

Matthew 15:9

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

The Pharisees knew a lot about God, but they didn't know God. It's not enough to study religion or the Bible and not respond to God in our actions. We say we know God, but does He know us? Does He hear your voice calling out to Him in praise and worship, does He hear your voice in prayer for others?

Matthew 15:10

And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand.

Jesus called them together in order to teach them the word of God and not the doctrine of men. That's why it's so important to attend Bible Study to be taught the word of God and not listen to people that usually don't pray or read the word, but feel like they can teach others about God.

Matthew 15:11

Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth this defileth a man.

Jesus was referring to the Jewish regulations concerning food and drink. He wanted them to know food wasn't defiling them but what they were saying and thinking. When you think on something long enough you will eventually do what you're thinking whether it's verbally or in actions.

Matthew 15:12

Then came his disciples and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this

saying? People will get highly upset when you disagree with their doctrine or tradition. We must always keep in mind, it's not about us, It's about what the word of God says.

Matthew 15:13

But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Not all religious leaders clearly see God's truth and anyone that listens to them is in risk of spiritual blindness and spiritual death. If we're not rooted in God, when trial and tribulations start coming our way, we will begin to fall away from God and His teaching and reach for those things that will give us a quick relief, but will not solve the root of the problem.

Matthew 15:14

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch.

Jesus was telling them to leave them alone because the Pharisees were blinded to God's truth. They didn't know any better and those that would listen to their teaching would also be spiritually blinded. Know who is teaching you - whether or not they have a relationship with God, do they hear from God, do you see the Fruit of the Spirit being manifested in their life, if not, you need to find someone else to be your leader.

Matthew 15:15

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare (explain) unto us this parable.

Peter needed clarification of the parable of what defileth a man. Too many times we listen and quote things that aren't scripture or has no truth to them. Know your bible and if what a person is saying isn't in the bible, then don't take it to heart. The Pharisees were teaching that certain foods defiled the individual whereas it's not the food that enters into the body, but what's in the person heart is what defiles.

Matthew 15:16

And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? The disciples had the Master teaching them the laws of God, and yet Peter wasn't clear of the spiritual matters Jesus had been teaching. Jesus wasn't teaching man's doctrine, but He was teaching what was in the heart of God.

Matthew 15:17

Do not ye yet understand that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

It appeared there was still some misunderstanding of what was defiling. The people were more concerned about rituals instead of looking into their hearts to see what was really defiling them. We have people in the body of Christ that may have never drunk, or did drugs or fornicated, but they have hatred in their hearts towards those that may have persecuted them or hurt them, unforgiveness and hatred comes from the heart and it will destroy us spiritually as any other physical sin.

Matthew 15:18

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile the man.

Many people have been murdered by what was in our hearts and came out of our mouth. Many lives have been destroyed and many will never attend church again because what was in our hearts and how we relate it to them. The heart must be regenerated by the word of God, the Spirit of the Living God must be dwelling in our hearts. We offend in many ways without knowledge of it.

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Once the heart is changed, the

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things that will edify and not carry us into sin. Our thinking is what causes us to dislike people, hold grudges, unforgiveness, what's in the heart will sooner or later enter into the mind and once its in the heart and mind we can either be a blessing or curse.

Matthew 15:20

These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

We wash our hands for sanitation. The washing of the hands was man's doctrine and not the doctrine of God. God instructed the Old Testament Saints to rend their hearts and not their garments, Jesus is saying the heart must be cleaned, not the washing of the hands, but the washing of the word of God into the heart.

Matthew 15:21

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

After Jesus taught, He then departed into another city. Tyre and Sidon were northwest of Galilee.

Matthew 15:22

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David: my daughter is grievously vexed (demon possessed) with a devil.

In Mark's Gospel the woman was called a Syrophenician. She cried out for mercy, her daughter was tormented by a devil. In today's society, people don't want to believe one can be demon possessed, but just as the demon had possessed the woman's daughter, demons are still tormenting people. Worry, fear, uncontrollable anger are few of the different demons that torment and possess people. Every time a person is demon possessed doesn't mean they will be foaming at the mouth, or acting out. There is a difference between torment, and possessed.

Matthew 15:23

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought (urged) him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

After Jesus didn't answer the woman, the disciples didn't show any compassion to her. By Jesus not answering her, most likely He was waiting to see where her faith was whereas the disciples weren't concerned about her needs. It's possible we can get so occupied with spiritual matters that we miss real needs in the midst of us.

Matthew 15:24

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus was concerned about her needs, he was telling her that the Jewish nation had the first opportunity to accept Him. He also may have wanted to use the situation as another way to teach that faith and salvation was available to all people.

Matthew 15:26

But he answered and said, It is not meet (good) to take the children's bread and to cast it to the dogs.

Dogs was a term the Jews commonly applied to the Gentiles. Jesus wasn't degrading the woman by using the term.

Matthew 15:27

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet, the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.

The woman didn't argue or get an attitude, she was on a mission to receive from the Lord. In other words she was saying, I will agree that I am a dog (Jewish phrase) as long as I can receive God's blessings. To receive from the Lord, we must be in agreement with the word of God. How can two walk together unless they be in agreement?

Matthew 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou (you desire) wilt. And her daughter was made whole (well) from that very hour.

Jesus didn't just say the woman had faith, but He said, she had **great faith**. Her daughter was healed according to the woman's faith. In order to please God and receive from Him, we must have faith. Abraham had faith, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Matthew 15:29

And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up unto a mountain and sat down there.

Moving on from Tyre and Sidon, He passed along the Sea of Galilee and went to a mountain and sat there to teach the people as they came.

Matthew 15:30

And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb (mute), maimed (crippled) and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

The people brought those that were in need of healing and placed them at the feet of Jesus. All of us know someone that needs to be touched by Jesus. There are many that we may not be able to get them to come to the church, but we can bring them to Jesus in prayer and He will deliver and heal them just as though they were at the church.

Matthew 15:31

Insomuch that the multitude wondered (marveled), when they saw the dumb (mute) to speak, the maimed (crippled) to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Although the people had brought

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those that were in need of healing, once they were healed the bible says they wondered, they were surprised and begin to glorify the God of Israel. We can begin to give thanks now for everyone we have taken to the altar in prayer, sooner or later our prayers will be answered, because God promised, He watches over His word to hasten to performed them.

Matthew 15:32

Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting (hungry), lest they faint in the way. Jesus was concerned about their need. Those that had been following Him hadn't eaten and He was determined not to send them away hungry. Think, Jesus was concerned about them being of hungry, don't you know that He's concerned about what ever maybe going on in your life? And just as He provided for them, He will provide for you.

Matthew 15:33

And his disciples say unto him, Whence (where could we get) should we so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great multitude?

Jesus had already fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish, you would think the disciples would have known by now what Jesus could do. Just like the disciples we soon forget how the Lord has blessed us. If He cared about one situation, He cares about them all!

Matthew 15:34

And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, seven, and a few little fishes.

The fishes and loaves were dis-

tributed in a manner similar to the other feeding, this time seven baskets full remained.

Matthew 15:35

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

Jesus instructed them to sit on the ground. In order to receive from the Lord, we must learn how to follow His instructions. Too many times, we want to do it our way rather than God's way.

Matthew 15:36

And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

After being notified of what they had to work with, Jesus blessed the food, gave it to the disciples to give to the people. As disciples of Jesus, we must be fed by Him to give to His people. Just as Jesus gave natural food to the disciples to feed the people, when we go before Him in the need of the people, He will give us what to give to His people.

Matthew 15:37

And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken (fragments) meat that was left seven baskets full.

Just as Jesus fulfilled the need of the people with an abundance left-over, He can do the same with us. What is impossible with man is possible with God.

Matthew 15:38

And they did eat were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Beside means it was more than four thousand that He fed with seven loaves of bread and a few fishes. God can use our little and make it much, when we place it in the hands of the Master. Jesus can take nothing and make something.

Matthew 15:39

And he sent away the multitude, and took ship and came into the coast of Magdala.

Jesus sent the multitude away and started on another journey. Magdala was located on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee. Also known as Dalmanutha, the town of Mary Magdalene's home.

The God we serve is a God that never fails, place your life as well as your situations in His hand!

God bless you! Be encouraged. Know that you have the victory through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Host.

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