

## Galilean Districts Ministry—The Tradition of the Elders (Spring/Summer 32)

Matthew 15:1–20

Mark 7:1–23

1 Then some 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 bread.”

3 And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?

4 For God said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,’ and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’ [\[Exod 21:12, 17\]](#)

5 “But you say, ‘Whoever says to *his* father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,”

6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.’

And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

7 “You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

8 ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

9 ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’”

10 After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them,

1 The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, 2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.

3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, *thus* observing the traditions of the elders;

4 and *when they come* from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)

5 The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?”

9 He was also saying to them,

“You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

10 For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’;

11 but you say, ‘If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),’

12 you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother;

13 *thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

6 And He said to them,

“Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: [\[Isa 29:13\]](#)

‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

7 ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’

8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He *began* saying to them,

“Hear and understand.

11 *It is* not what enters into the mouth  
*that* defiles the man,  
but what proceeds out of the mouth,  
this defiles the man.”

12 Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?”

13 But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted.

14 “Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

15 Peter said to Him, “Explain the parable to us.”

16 Jesus said,

“Are you still lacking in understanding also?

17 Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth

passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?

18 But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts,

false witness, slanders.

20 These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”

“Listen to Me, all of you, and understand:

15 there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.

16 *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.*”

17 When he had left the crowd *and* entered the house,

His disciples questioned Him about the parable.

18 And He said to them,

“Are you so lacking in understanding also?

Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him,

19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?”

*(Thus He declared all foods clean.)*

20 And He was saying,

“That which proceeds out of the man,

that is what defiles the man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts,

fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

22 deeds of coveting *and* wickedness,

*as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness.

23 All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”