

**Clean and Unclean**  
**Hands and Hearts**

**Matthew 15:1-20**



the  
**Gospel**  
according to  
**Matthew**



***Tradition!  
Tradition!  
Tradition!***

**Tradition and  
New Kingdom  
Life of Holiness**

***Matters of the Heart***



# Tradition of Hand Washing

*Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked,*

*<sup>2</sup> 'Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!'*

**The Pharisees  
challenged Jesus**

*They came not to learn  
but to judge and criticize*

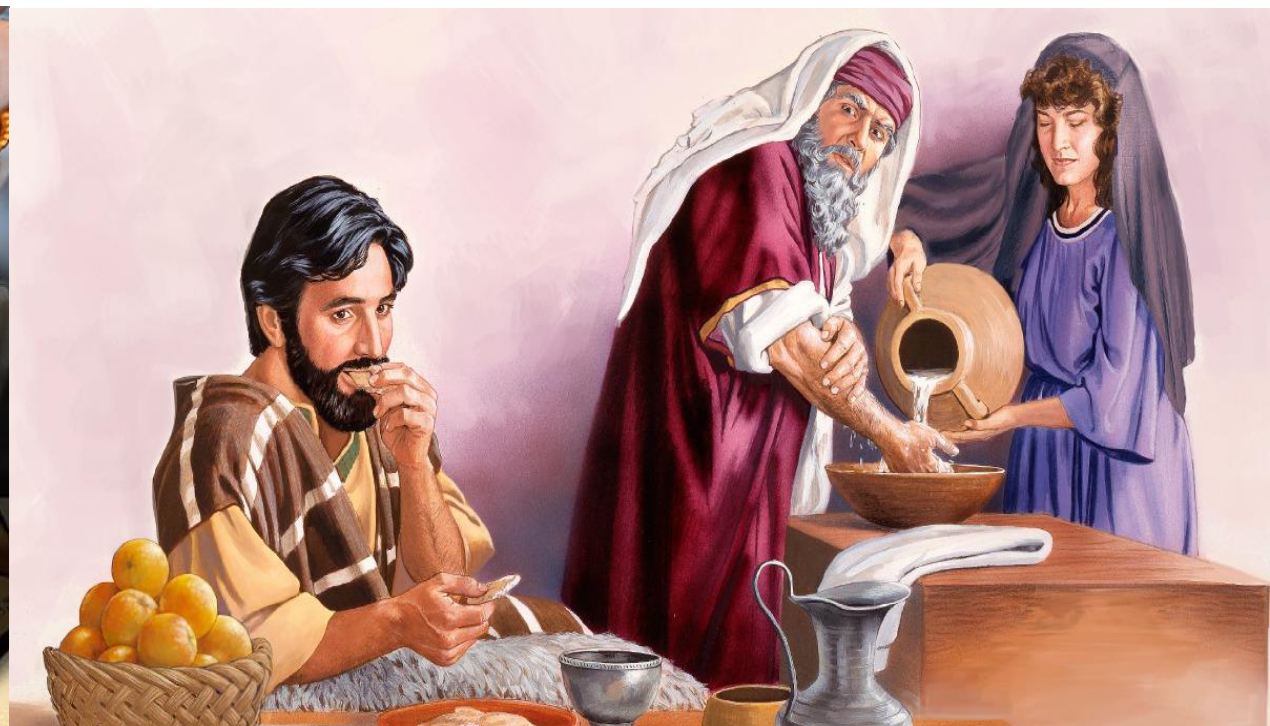


# Hand Washing

## Ceremonial Washings

Exodus 30:17-21; 2 Chronicles 4:6

Vs.



## **They put tradition above God's command**

*<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?'*

## **They bent the rules for their own benefits**

*<sup>4</sup> For God said, "Honour your father and mother" and "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death."*

*<sup>5</sup> But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is "devoted to God,"*

*<sup>6</sup> they are not to "honour their father or mother" with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*

# They were Hypocrites

*<sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:*

*<sup>8</sup> “These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

*<sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”*

**Great Actors, Pretenders!**

**Their worship is not  
from the heart**



**Isaiah 29:13**

## **The Pharisees were offended Jesus ignored them**

***<sup>13</sup> He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'***

**He exhorted & warned them**

***Do not follow them.***

***They were heading for***

***spiritual disasters***



# Jesus teaches on clean and unclean Hands and Hearts

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.'*

***What enter your mouth will not make you unclean***

***It is what comes out of your mouth that makes you unclean***



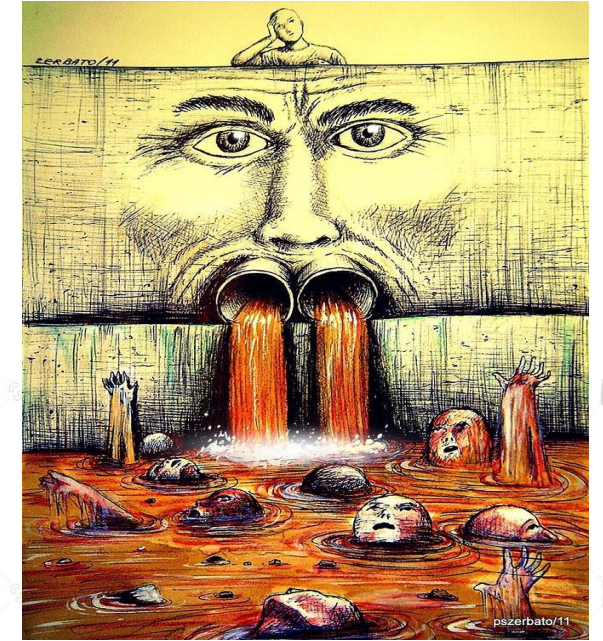


## Jesus explained the parable

***16 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them.***

***17 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?'***

***18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.***



## Heart and Mouth Connection

*True spiritual defilement  
comes out of the mouth.*

**The mouth speaks what  
the heart is full of**



# What matters is what comes out of the heart!

***19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.***

***20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'***

**Sins come from the heart**

***The evil that comes out of your heart makes you unclean***



**Hearts not Traditions  
that Keep You Holy!**

*Our hands are clean  
when our hearts are pure*

*How should we look  
at traditions and  
respond to them  
to live a holy life?*



# Keep the Tradition!

## **2 Thessalonians 2:15**

*So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.*

***Reflect Reality and Preserve Truth***



# Traditions of the churches

**They do not save us,  
but they help in  
promoting worship**

*They are means  
of grace, unity,  
spiritual growth*



# **Not all traditions are good**

***Be discerning in practicing traditions***

**Colossians 2:8**

***See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.***



**Beware of Man-made Traditions**

**Hypocrisy and Pride**

***Follow God's Teaching, not Rules of Man***

# **Not all traditions are bad**

*Be careful of judging and criticizing others because of traditions*



**Do not judge each other on the outside**

***It's the inside, the heart that matters!***

**Pure Hearts Produce Clean Hand!**



# God looks for Pure hearts and clean hands

## He Judges the Heart

### **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

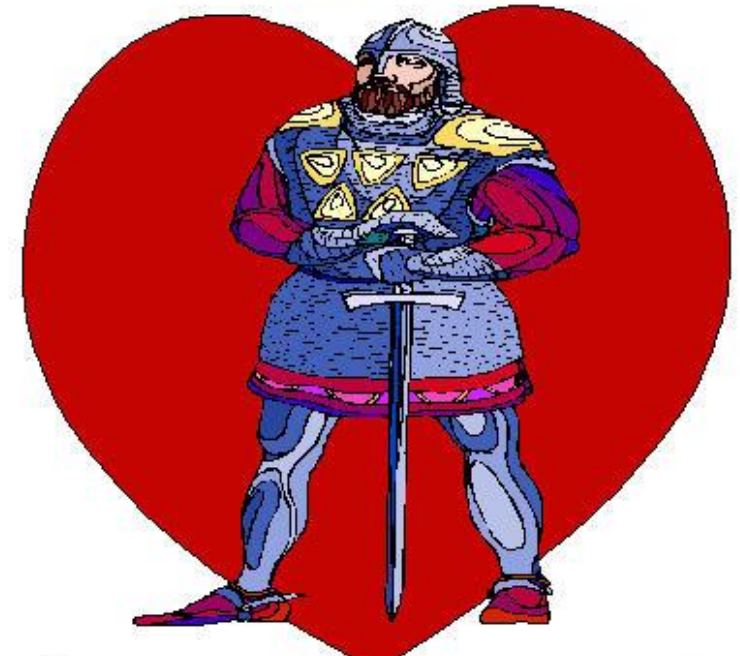
## Guard Our Hearts

### **Proverbs 4:23**

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*



**GUARD YOUR  
HEART**





# **Live the Holy Life!**

## ***Worship God with the Heart***

**Psalm 19:14 David  
prays from the heart**

*May the meditation of  
my hearts be pleasing  
in your sight, O Lord,  
my Rock and Redeemer.*



A sunset scene with a cross and a person's silhouette. The background is a bright sunset with orange and yellow light. In the foreground, there is a tall cross on the left and a silhouette of a person standing on the right. The text is overlaid on the scene.

**Come Believe Jesus in the Heart**  
**Receive the New Heart from Him**

**Ezekiel 36:26**

*<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

**The Power of God's Love**

# A New Heart Changes Everything

- **Matthew 22:37**  
*Love the Lord your God from the heart*
- **Colossians 3:16**  
*Sing from the heart with gratitude  
psalms, hymn, spiritual songs*
- **Romans 8:27**  
*The Spirit searches our hearts in prayer*
- **2 Corinthians 9:7**  
*Give from the heart generously and freely*
- **Deuteronomy 10:10**  
*Serve him with all your heart*



**Go and Be His Faithful  
Righteous Witnesses!**

**In Unity and Love**



**Acts 1:8 *Going Mission with God!***