

# **We've Never Done it That Way Before!**

## *A lesson about tradition*

Matthew 15:1-20

### **Introduction:**

- Would you ever consider doing any of the following in a different way that you presently do?
  1. Tying your shoes.
  2. Putting a new toilet paper roll on its dispenser.
  3. Religious traditions.
- Religious tradition
  1. Jesus o\_\_\_\_\_ many Jewish traditions.
  2. Jesus also o\_\_\_\_\_ certain Jewish traditions.
  3. How do we know if our own religious traditions should be kept or discarded?

### **What is the s\_\_\_\_\_ of the tradition? (1,2)**

- What was the source of the tradition for washing one's hands before eating? – from the e\_\_\_\_\_.
  1. These elders were the respected rabbis of the p\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. These elders established certain traditions, which were passed down o\_\_\_\_\_ from generation to generation.
  3. The traditions were not w\_\_\_\_\_ down until 200 A.D.
  4. The source of the tradition was outside the S\_\_\_\_\_.
- If the source of tradition is not Scripture
  1. It does not automatically mean that it is \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. praying with head bowed, having an order of service)
  2. Human tradition must not hold the same level of a\_\_\_\_\_ that the Scripture has.
- There are some traditions that come from the Scriptures.
  1. Believers g\_\_\_\_\_ together on a regular basis (Heb 10:24,25).
  2. Observing the Lord's S\_\_\_\_\_ (1Cor 11:23-26).
  3. B\_\_\_\_\_ those who become disciples (Matt 28:19).
- Always keep in mind whether the tradition is from man or God.

### **What is the p\_\_\_\_\_ for the tradition? (3-6,10,11,15-20)**

- Jesus pointed out two traditions and their purposes.
  1. Making a v\_\_\_\_\_ to designate something as a future gift for the temple.

- a. This tradition was established to insure funds for the ongoing e\_\_\_\_\_ of the temple.
  - b. The v\_\_\_\_\_ could not be revoked.
  - c. The purpose was c\_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) By some who did not want to use their inheritance to c\_\_\_\_\_ for their aged parents.
    - 2) The purpose changed from g\_\_\_\_\_ to g\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Washing one's hands before eating
- a. This tradition was established not for personal hygiene, but to avoid s\_\_\_\_\_ contamination.
    - 1) Rabbis saw from God's word that w\_\_\_\_\_ purified a person from spiritual uncleanness when coming into contact with a dead animal (Lev 11:24,25).
    - 2) Rabbis made a big jump to say that Jews could be spiritually contaminated by t\_\_\_\_\_ something that non-Jews (Gentiles) touched.
    - 3) It is one thing to be contaminated on the outside, but on the inside would bring t\_\_\_\_\_ defilement. Washing one's hands before eating could prevent this.
  - b. Jesus showed that spiritual defilement does not come from the o\_\_\_\_\_ but from the i\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 11,18-20)
    - 1) F\_\_\_\_\_ to observe a man-made tradition does not defile you.
    - 2) S\_\_\_\_\_ defiles you.

● Think about the purpose of some of our traditions.

1. Why do we meet on Sundays?
2. Why do we have Bible Hour and why before our big service?

### Is God's word h\_\_\_\_\_ in carrying out the tradition? (7-9, 12-14)

- Tradition must never be a \_\_\_\_\_ biblical (7-9) – (e.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ baptism was a man-made tradition established to keep infant's from going to hell. But there is only one way to take away sin – Jesus's blood applied by f\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 3:25; Eph 1:7; Rev 1:5).
  - Tradition can be un\_\_\_\_\_ and still honor God's word (e.g. music, meeting on Sunday)
  - How many churches have s\_\_\_\_\_ over tradition?
- Carrying out tradition must be done in a way that honor's God.