

## Mark 7:1-23 **Eating With Unwashed Hands – vs. – True Defilement**

### Traditions of the Elders – Oral Law

<sup>1</sup> Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. <sup>3</sup> For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. <sup>5</sup> Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

### Commandment of God made ineffective by Oral Law of men

<sup>6</sup> He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

"This people honors Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far from Me.  
<sup>7</sup> And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

<sup>8</sup> "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." <sup>9</sup> And He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' <sup>11</sup> But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"--' (that is, a gift to God), <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, <sup>13</sup> making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

### True defilement is from within, not in what you eat

<sup>14</sup> When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: <sup>15</sup> There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. <sup>16</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

### Explanation

<sup>17</sup> When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. <sup>18</sup> So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup> because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" <sup>20</sup> And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within and defile a man." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Commandments of men oppose and nullify the commandments of God [Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23]

Traditions of the Elders – Oral Law [Matthew 15:1-2, Mark 7:3-5]

✠ Scribes and Pharisees pushing man made Oral Law traditions which they hold at the same level of validity as the Laws of God, and they claim they were given by God at Mount Sinai (Horeb) as Oral Laws.

✧ "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." [Matthew 15:1-2, Mark 7:5]

### Commandment of God made ineffective by Oral Law of men [Matthew 15:3-6, Mark 7:6-9]

✠ Jesus said that the Oral Law was based on the commandments of men and not from God.

✧ Jesus illustrated what He meant by asking them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

✧ Jesus used the commandment to Honor your father and mother, and the twist the Oral law had made of it, to illustrate His point.

✧ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition which you have handed down, and many such things you do. [Mark 7:13]

✧ "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." [Mark 7:8]

### Hypocrisy of men's tradition [Matthew 15:7-9, Mark 7:6-7]

✠ Allowing the commandments of men, Oral Law, to override the commandment of God is Hypocrisy.

✧ This Hypocrisy fulfills the words of the prophecy of Isaiah.

"Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths

And honor Me with their lips,

But have removed their hearts far from Me,

And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men."

[Isaiah 29:13]

✧ "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

[Mark 7:9]

### Explanation to the multitude – Defiled from Within [Matthew 15:10-11, Mark 7:14-15]

✠ That which goes into the mouth does not defile a man.

✠ What comes out of the mouth is the thing that defiles a man.

✠ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. [Mark 7:16, Matthew 11:15]

✧ Not everyone is able or willing to accept the truth revealed. [Matthew 11:14]

✧ That remained the statement throughout the Church age, and the book of Revelation.

[Matthew 11:15, 13:9-17, 43, Mark 4:9, 23, 7:16, 8:18, Luke 8:8, 14:35, Acts 28:27, Romans 11:8, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9]

✧ That ability comes only as a gift from God. [Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 6:10, Jeremiah 5:21, Ezekiel 12:1-2]

### Pharisees were offended [Matthew 15:12]

✠ When the traditions one has been standing on and enforcing for so many years as taught by the denominational position of ones Church organization, comes under criticism, a person, especially a religious leader, suddenly becomes offended by the correction.

✧ This is a revelation of the normal heart of mankind, and is as true today as it was then.

✧ Many denominational doctrines of the Church today would receive the same condemnation from Jesus as did the doctrine of the Pharisees at that time.

### If the Blind lead the Blind, they will both fall [Matthew 15:13-14]

✠ The simple answer Jesus gave is a revelation of the standing of manmade doctrine on the Day of Judgment.

✧ The result of false doctrine is that it not only causes the teacher of the error to fall, but it brings down the one who was deceived by the false doctrine. They both fall together.

✧ Jesus warns us of false teachers of the last days by saying:

“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” [Matthew 24:4-5, 11, Mark 13:5-6, 22, 2 Timothy 3:13]

Deeper Explanation – True Defilement is from the heart [Matthew 15:15-20, Mark 7:17-23]

- ✚ At Peter’s request, Jesus went into more detail to explain the teaching.
  - ✧ What goes into the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated.
  - ✧ The things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart.
- ✚ Defilement is from the heart.
  - ✧ "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." [Mark 7:20-23, Matthew 15:15-20]
  - ✧ For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. [Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45]