

THE COMMAND OF GOD AND THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

Matthew 15:1-20

Key Verse: 15:3

1. Read verse 1-2. What did some Pharisees and teachers of the Law accuse Jesus' disciples? (Compare previous accusations by the Pharisees: 9:3,11,34; 12:2,10,24.
2. Read verses 3-6. How did Jesus respond (3,6)? What example did he give? What does Jesus mean by the "traditions of men"?
3. Read verses 7-9. How do Isaiah's words shed light on the real problem of the Pharisees? How people in our times also nullify the word of God for the sake of our own rules or customs or even morality?
4. Read verses 10-14. What did Jesus say that offended the Pharisees? Why were they offended? What short parables did Jesus give about the Pharisees who rejected him? Why did he call them blind guides?
5. What did Peter ask? Which parable was he talking about? What is Jesus' explanation? Why is God more concerned about the inner life than about ritual or laws designed to help God's people be holy?
6. How can we be a holy nation people and please God?