

INTRODUCTION

“Tradition” - a belief or practice handed down from one generation to another.

(2 Thess. 2:15) “brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught ... “

It's wrong when traditions become commandments (ritual) and are not rooted in scripture.
(v3) “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”

1. JESUS ACCUSED (v1-3)

(v2) “Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands ... “

They were not interested in hygiene; rather, accused them of not honoring their traditions.
Not accused of violating the written law of Moses, but the “tradition of the elders.”

For scribes and Pharisees, these traditions were as important (more so) than Moses' Law.

2. JESUS TEACHES (v10-14)

(v3-9) Jesus established that **Jewish leaders** placed more emphasis on tradition than revealed Law.

(v10) Addressing **the multitude**: “Hear, and understand.”

(v11) “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what come out of the mouth, this defiles a man”
Their focus was on physical defilement (incorrect conclusion), and Jesus' focus is on spiritual.

(v12) “Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?”

Rather than learning the lesson from the Teacher, they were upset.

Jesus responds by noting the eventual fate of these antagonists: (v13-14) “Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

3. JESUS EXPLAINS (v15-20)

(v16-20) Jesus addresses **the disciples** in more detail.

(v17) “... **enters the mouth**, goes into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?
Those things which proceed **out of the mouth** come forth from the heart;
and **they defile the man**”

The real dangers are the impurities that start in the heart and later issue in sinful actions.

(Prov. 4:23) “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out it spring the issues of life”

(v20) “ ... to eat with unwashed hands defile not a man.”

4. APPLICATION

Learn the difference between traditions linked to men and those practiced God's command.

Jewish leaders were offended by Jesus teaching; don't follow their response.

(Gal. 4:16) “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”