



It's A Family Tradition

WK 61 Mt. 15:1-20

WARM UP: *What one family tradition did you observe as a child, still do, and hope to see carried on in the next generation? Why? What one family tradition did you hate as child, still do, and refuse to carry on in your family?*

Family Traditions. When I was in high school, Hank Williams Jr. had a hit song by just that title that put him on the charts and it wasn't about any family traditions one would want to pass on to their children. He played on the family name but he most certainly did little or nothing to honor it. As a matter of fact, he made his living by being a rebel and still does.

Family traditions. We love them and we hate them especially when we don't want to follow them. Sometimes traditions make sense but often they don't. Yet, people continue to hang onto them even when the true reason for doing so has been lost or no longer holds the same meaning or importance. They just go through the motions because that is what they've always done. The same thing could be said when it comes to matters of faith...

People often cling to their traditions even when they no longer honor them where it matters most... in their hearts. No wonder Jesus had some of his harshest criticism for those who held their traditions in higher esteem than they did God's word.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 15:1-20

1. *After crossing to the Gentile side of the lake and healing many who came to see him, who comes to see Jesus? Where are they from and what is the reason behind their visit?*
2. *After observing Jesus and his disciples, what issue do they raise with Jesus about his disciples' behavior?*
3. *Is the issue a matter of adherence to God's commands or is it something else?*
4. *Jesus calls them on the carpet and exposes their duplicity by the way they allowed people to practice making a CORBAN VOW. What was a Corban vow and how was it being used to avoid taking care of one's parents needs in their old age?*
5. *What does Jesus call them? When Jesus quotes Isaiah, he is pointing to where the real problem originated from. It was not the law that was the problem but the _____.*
6. *What does this say about religion and worship that does not come from the heart? What is its value?*
7. **Read vv. 10-20.** *Why would this offend the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law and alarm Jesus' disciples? When they point this out to Jesus, how does he respond?*

8. *What defiles a person in the Pharisee's and Teachers of the Law view? What about God's view?*
9. *The Pharisees claimed to be leaders of the people but Jesus called them "blind guides". What warning does "the blind leading the blind" give us and how should we apply it?*
10. *What traditions in our church might make it difficult for new people to feel at home or wanted here? How could you change these things?*
11. *More importantly, what is one area of your life that needs changing in order to get your heart and your mouth more in line?*