

“The Tradition of Men”

Text: Mark 7:1-13

Intro:

→ This morning we will look at three things concerning the “tradition of men.”

- The **root** of the tradition of men in verses 1-7.
- The **reason** of the tradition of men in verses 8-12.
- The **result** of the tradition of men verse 13.

I. THE ROOT OR THE SOURCE OF THE TRADITION OF MEN

(VS. 1-7)

→ This should be no surprise the root of the tradition of men, is man himself.

→ **Read v. 1** – “**Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.**”

- We see in verse 1, the root or source specifically the religious crowd – Pharisees and scribes.
- Today’s equivalent would be a hierarchy of a religious organization.
- I.e. – Roman Catholics – Pope, college of cardinals, bishops, priests.
- We see in verse 1, the religious crowd getting together to intimidate a Bible Believers.
 - In this case it was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples.

- Nothing has changed today.
- Various religious groups are always getting together and trying to intimidate Bible Believers.
 - I.e. Trying to get ordinances passed which would prohibit preaching on the street or passing out gospel tracts.
 - I.e. Prohibit the open display of a Bible on someone's desk at work.
 - I.e. Prohibit the use of conference rooms during lunch time for prayer and Bible Study.
- Beware when the religious crowd gets together usually to attack Bible Believers and the inspired, inerrant, preserved word of God, AV 1611, King James Bible.
- They groups often come under the heading of a Council.
 - I.e. The National Council of Churches.
 - Promote modern Bible Perversions.
- What is interesting most of the time in the Bible when a council is mentioned it has a bad connotation.

→ **Read Verse 2** – “**And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.**”

→ **Notice** – This crowd comes for one sole purpose and that is to find fault, with Jesus and his disciples.

- “...**they found fault**”

→ **Read Verse 3** – “**For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.**”

- Verse 3 tells us that the religious crowd finds fault or judges, Jesus’ disciples action based on manmade laws and not the Word of God
 - “**holding the tradition of the elders**”

→ **Read Verse 4** – “**And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.**”

- The foundation and majority of this crowd’s belief was based on the traditions of man and not the Word of God.
 - “**And many other things there be, which they have received to hold,**”
- Does this sound familiar?
- Does this sound like anyone you know today?
 - I.e., Roman Catholics, Mormons, JWs, 7th Day Adventists, Christian Scientists, Church of Christ, Moslems, and let’s not forget the liberal Protestants.

→ **Read Verse 5** – “**Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? “**

- Again notice the Pharisees and scribes line of questioning was not based on the Word of God or Bible Tradition but the tradition of man.

- **“the tradition of the elders”**

→ **Read Verse 6** – **“He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”**

- Jesus tells us the root of the problem is the **heart of man**.
- The Bible says about the heart, **“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked:...”**
- You see the problem with the heretic is not what he is teaching
 - The problem is his heart.
 - He has rejected the truth.
 - The Bible tells us in **Galatians 5:20**, that **heresies** is a work of the flesh.
- Jesus tells us in **John 3:19**, **“men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”**
- The religious crowd uses the name of Jesus a lot in what they do.
 - But in reality they are only giving Jesus lip service.
 - As Jesus said here in **v. 6**, **“...This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”**
- **Mt. 7:21-23** tells us, **“7:21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**
7:22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils?

and in thy name done many wonderful works?

7:23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

→ **Read Verse 7 – “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”**

- Jesus tells us those who follow and teach the commandments of men instead of the Word of God, their worship is in **“vain”**
- In other words, their worship is “worthless” or “no profit”, “nothing.”
- So, the **root** of the tradition of men is **“man”** himself.

II. THE REASON FOR THE TRADITIONS OF MEN (VS. 8-12)

→ **Read Verse 8 – “For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.”**

- **“laying aside the commandment of God”**
- Instead of making the Word of God as his final authority, man makes up his own rules & sets himself up as the final authority.
- This is exactly what Satan did with Eve in the garden.
- **See Genesis 3:4-5 – “3:4: And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 3:5: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”**

- In other words, Satan was telling Eve, “Who needs God and God’s rule?” “Eve you can be like God and make up your own rules to go by.”
- You see by man doing this when he looks into his traditions and commandments instead of the Word of God, then he doesn’t look that bad after all.
- You and I hear it all the time when we try to witness to someone about being saved.
- We hear the following:
 - “I have been baptized”
 - “I keep the sacraments”
 - “I keep the 10 commandments”
 - “I go to church”
 - “I am a good moral person”
 - “I support my church financially”
- In other words, the person is saying, “I can save myself”
- All they are doing is using the tradition of man to judge themselves instead of the Word of God.
- If they used the Word of God, then they would see just how wicked they really are and their need to be saved!!!!

→ **Read Verse 9** – “**And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**”

- Jesus tells the religious crowd that they knowingly reject the commandment of God.
- They reject the Word of God so that they keep their own traditions.
- You see my dear friend, you can't do both.
 - You can't keep God's Word and keep man's word at the same time.
- If you try then the result will be that you will be double minded and unstable in all your ways.
- Jesus reminds us in **Mt. 6:24**, that you cannot serve two masters – you will hate one and love the other.

→ **Read Verses 10-12 – “7:10: For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: 7:11: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. 7:12: And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;”**

- Jesus gives the religious crowd an example of how they are rejecting the commandment of God, so that they may keep their tradition.
- Basically, this is the **reason** why man makes up his traditions, so he can circumvent the Word of God.
- In other words, get around it, like one of our recently former president so aptly did.

- ➔ In verse 10, the commandment that our Lord was referring to was of the 10 commandments – “Honour thy father and mother.”
- ➔ In verses 11-12, we see how God’s commandment was being circumvented.
 - If an individual gave a gift to the temple or the priest, then this excused that person from taking care of their parents.
 - Man’s commandment superseded the God’s commandment.
 - In other words, tradition was put above the Word of God.
 - Tradition was made to be the final authority and not the Word of God.
 - Problem the main reason for putting the commandment of men and the tradition of men before the Word of God is greed or the love of money.
 - **1 Timothy 6:10**, tells us **“For the love of money is the root of all evil.”**
 - Someone is getting rich off the traditions and commandments of men.
 - **Examples –**
 - The modern Bibles copyrighted, the Word of God – AV1611 – KJB isn’t
 - Prayers & masses for the dead to get them out of purgatory (Spiritual Bouquets). – Money
 - Marriage annulled - Money
 - Special penances or dispensations – Money
 - Priest not to marry – excuse lest costly to support a man & his family.

- Some of these priests live better than you and I.
- Look at the Pope, all finery that he is dressed in.
- And the lavish life style he lives.
- Lighting of candles – so prayers will be heard – money.
- All kinds of special medallions, crucifixes, statues, etc. – money

III. RESULT OF THE TRADITION OF MEN (V. 13)

→ **Read Verse 13** – “**Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.**”

- Notice something interesting with me.
 - The number 13 in the Bible is the number for rebellion.
 - Here is verse 13, we find the traditions of men in rebellion against the Word of God.
- Jesus tells us that the result of the tradition of men, it is used by man to make the Word of God of “**none effect**”.
- In other words, it used to cancel out the Word of God.
- Why?
 - So, now man can be the final authority and not the Word of God.
 - I.e., The Pope speaking ex-cathedra from the seat, his words when speaks from the seat are suppose to be infallible.

- That not what my Bible says – Amen and Amen!!!
- If it is not in the Bible than it is just a tradition of man and not a Bible tradition.
- I.e. –
 - Men not to marry to be a minister.
 - Only go to a priest to confess your sins.
 - The Bible tells us in **1 Tim. 2:5** – **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”**
 - To call a man, father in a spiritual sense.
 - Jesus said in **Mt. 23:9** – **“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”**
 - Christmas
 - Easter
 - The Word of God tells us the only thing were are to observe is the Lord’s Death as instituted by the local church in the Lord’s Supper or Communion.
 - The Apostle Peter was the first pope.
 - However, Peter was never even in Rome.
 - The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans does not mention Peter.

- Also, in **Mt. 8:14**, the Bible tells us that Peter had a mother-in law.
 - That's funny, I thought priests were not suppose to marry.
- The only traditions that we should follow and observe concerning the things of God is Bible traditions.
- I.e. – Man is baptized by immersion after he is saved.
 - Sprinkling of an infant is a tradition of man.
 - Saved by grace through faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ is a Bible tradition.
 - Saved by good works is a tradition of man.
- If what man says doesn't line up with the Work of God, then it is a tradition of man.
- And what it is trying to do is make the Word of God of none effect.
- Remember, what the Apostle Paul said in **2 Thess. 2:15**, **“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”**
- Paul exhorts us to stand fast and hold the traditions that taught the word, the Word of God
 - Or our epistle – Referring to Paul's letters to them which are also the Word of God.

Conclusion:

→ This morning we have seen concerning the tradition of men.

- The **Root** of it – Man’s wicked heart.
- The **Reason** for it – The Love of Money
- The **Result** of it – It makes the Word of God of none effect and sets man up as the final authority and not God.
- I did not speak on this but another result would be is the tradition of man is sending countless soul to a literal burning hell for all eternity.
 - Jesus said to religious crowd in His day and it still applies today – **Mt. 23:15**, “**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.**”