

Overview

1-V1 The leaders of the Jewish church wanted to know why Jesus and His disciples were ignoring the _____ of the church like ceremonial _____ washing.

2-V3 Jesus responded with a rebuke for them. "Why do you, by your _____ violate the direct _____ of God?" For example, the commandment to take care of their parents in their old age. To keep that money for themselves, they devised a tradition call the "Corban" which allowed them to make a token gift to the church and God instead of caring for physical needs of their old, poor, and weak parents.

3-V8 Jesus quotes the scripture where the LORD is speaking about this perennial problem among the church-going crowd. "These people honor me with their _____ (singing enthusiastically at church) but their _____ are far from Me. Their _____ is a farce, for they replace God's _____ with their own _____ traditions." (which allows people to give God holiness and ignore the earthly needs of people.)

4-V10-11 Jesus says, "Listen to what I say and try to understand. You are not defiled by what you _____... but by what you say and do." Good manners are no substitute for good works. James says, "Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all." James 2:17

5-V12 The Pharisees complained to Jesus' disciples that he had _____ them. So it has always been. True prophets and honest spiritual leaders always offend people who have it made in this world and reward churches that tell them they are good and godly people when in fact, they are part of the problem the common man has making it.

6-V13-14 If we will not see with our spiritual eyes, if we practice self-deception, and if we pick and twist Scripture to please our sinful nature, then we will become spiritually blind. So Jesus says of these people, "They were not _____ by my heavenly Father so _____ them (don't let them influence you). They are _____ guides leading the _____ and they will both fall into a _____ (which may not be heaven).

7-V17-20 Jesus explains why what we eat doesn't defile us in God's eyes. What we eat goes in and passes _____ of the body. All the things that make other people miserable - _____, adultery, _____, theft _____ and slander come from selfish thoughts dominating and making an evil _____. The 2nd great commandment is not to wash our hands, it is to love our neighbor like we love ourselves and to promote their happiness and well being, sometimes at significant cost to ourselves.

8-V21-28 Matthew wants to illustrate who it is that is actually acceptable to God and gets their prayers answered by Him. So he tells about an incident with a _____ (non-Jewish) woman who came to Jesus wanting Him to heal her daughter of a _____. Jesus speaking the rhetoric of the Jewish pastors says he won't because she's not one of God's favorite people—Israel. In fact, she is just a Gentile _____. However, she senses the Lord's heart and says, "But even the dogs are permitted to eat the _____ that fall beneath their master's table. "Jesus said that her _____ was great. Her daughter was healed.

9-V29-31 Peter summarized Jesus' lifestyle. "He went about DOING GOOD and healing those who were oppressed by the devil." (Acts 10:38) In contrast to the self-deceived religious who made holy sounding reasons for not helping people. Jesus healed them _____.

10-V32 The people had been following Jesus for three days and had nothing to eat. Jesus saw that and said, "I feel _____ for these people." Another time, looking at the crowds who were sick and had no hope, Matthew says, "Jesus felt great pity for the crowds that came because their problems were so great and they didn't know where to go for help." MT 8:36

11-V34 Jesus teaches us again how to do good. We take what we have – in this case _____ loaves of bread and a _____ small fish. He _____ God and shared it and all were fed with _____ large baskets of bread and fish left over.

Word Study

• FAR • GENTILE • HYPROCRITES • TRADITIONS • PLANT • HEART

1.V2 _____ The Jewish rabbis made commentaries explaining the practical applications of God's Law given through Moses. They built a fence around in a sense so that people would not inadvertently sin against the Father. However, as Jeremiah said, "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." Jeremiahs 17:9-10 They ended up putting a twist to some of their man-made traditions that conserved their wealth, power, & position which erased the direct commandments of God at the expense of the people they were supposed to take care of. However, "spiritual leaders are accountable to God." Heb13:17

2.V7 _____ This is a Greek word for stylized masks which Greek actors wore representing good and bad people, happy and sad emotions and such. The point is that the real person of the actor - his character, purposes, motivations - was hidden by the mask. The Jewish preachers appeared spiritual but about everybody knew they were some of the most greedy and hardhearted people in their society.

3.V13 _____ Israel was commonly referred to as a plant (grape vine in particular) which was sustained by God's grace. (Luke 13:6-9) These people would be rooted up because although they are physically planted in the Kingdom of God, God did not plant them. Jesus said that we would know each other by our fruits. Micah says, "O people, the Lord has already shown you what is good, and this is what He requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

4.V8 _____ Talk is cheap. Husbands and wives want love and all that it means from each other. Children want love from their parents. Father God wants love from his children. And Christ the bridegroom wants His passion for us returned. Even little children are not fooled by pretensions of love and affection.

5.V18 _____ The Greek word is KARDIA, which means literally the organ that pumps the body's blood. The body lives as long as it does. The word is used in a spiritual sense to communicate what was meant by the Hebrew words for the image of God's nature--the non-physical spirit or personality which we share with God. The Hebrew words are:

- NEPHESH: The living being, the person or personality.
- RUACH: Literally "wind." The spirit is like wind. God breathed a wind into the body made of the dust of the earth. Genesis 2
- LEB: The soul as an operating force. Our inner control center.

The Greek words used to speak of the spirit nature of man are:

- PSYCHE: That is, soul. Close to nephesh.
- NOUS: "Mind" The inner person as being thinking, conscious, creative.
- PREN: "Rationality"

6.V22 _____ This woman has a good heart as compared to the Jewish preachers. Her love for her daughter compels her to risk being the fool. But more important, she was very spiritual from God's point of view. She sees the Lord's mercy and picks up on His serious kidding and moves in boldly. "Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us, when we need it." Hebrews 4:16

What does this Scripture say to you? _____