

Sermon Study Questions

January 16, 2021

1. Read Matthew 15:1-9
2. Clearly hypocrisy is the issue in this passage. What is hypocrisy, and where does this word originate?
3. Jesus responds to the Pharisees' question, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders," with a question of His own, asking, "Why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" What is the issue that Jesus is raising here? What is the "tradition of the elders" the Pharisees and scribes are referring to?
4. How does the Bible view tradition? Where do you see the value of tradition as it pertains to the Christian faith?
5. To illustrate the way the religious leaders put tradition before Scripture Jesus gives an example of the way they set aside the 5th Commandment. Explain what they were doing, and why this was violating the 5th Commandment.
6. Jesus peels back the exterior and shows that underneath it is hypocrisy. How is this an example of hypocrisy?
7. Oftentimes when we think of hypocrisy we think of the extreme version of it rather than the more subtle way it works in the heart. What are some of the subtle ways hypocrisy can settle into our hearts, and how does it manifest itself?
8. What is the lesson from Isaiah 29 that Jesus quotes in v.8-9?
9. Practically speaking, how should you respond to a passage like this and how does the gospel minister to you and guide you to a right response to any hypocrisy you may discover in your heart?
10. Pray!