

Gospel Harmony Event # 65

Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23; John 7:1

[Question #1] After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

[Question #2] He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

‘This people honors Me with *their* lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’

For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

[Question #3] He said to them, “*All too well* you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For God [Moses] said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man [whoever] says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* Corban” — (that is, a gift *to* God), then he need not honor his father or mother.’ You no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother. Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition, which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

[Questions #4] When He had called all the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, there is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

[Question #5] Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us." So He said to them, "Are you thus still without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, *thus* purifying all foods?" And He said, those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, **pride, foolishness.** All these evil things come from within and these are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

1. Explain the traditions of the Pharisees. Where did they come from? [Matthew 15:1-2; Mark 7:1-5; John 7:1]
2. What was the context of this prophecy from Isaiah (Isaiah 29:13)? How does it fit the Pharisees well? [Matthew 15:3, 7-9; Mark 7:6-8]
3. How did the Pharisees prevent the people from following the commandments of God? [Matthew 15:4-6; Mark 7:9-13]
4. Explain the figure of the blind leading the blind. [Matthew 15:10-14; Mark 7:14-16]
5. What is the difference between what enters a man and what comes from within? [Matthew 15:16-20; Mark 7:17-23]