

5th October 2008
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Readings: Matt ch 15 v 1-20
1 John ch 1 v 7

Subject: Pharisees

The Pharisees speak to Jesus nine times in Matthew. The Lord reminds them that He comes to give mercy. They challenged the Lord Jesus on His behaviour.

What is a Pharisee?

They are people who grew up as a tradition and claimed they were separated to God. They had taken the word of God and added to it so much that they were purely following the traditions of men. They had ended up going against scripture and breaking the law, they were sinners. They appeared to be good, respectable, religious people before men but yet their hearts were not right before God.

In this passage they are challenging Him regarding the tradition of ritual washing before taking bread. They were following their own traditions handed down by men not following the scriptures, setting aside the word of God in favour of their own traditions. God had said, Honour thy father and mother. It was the first commandment with promise.

We may have an appearance of righteousness but that is not what is in the heart. We live in a day of high mindedness, they have principles, which may not be centred on the Bible or Christ. Moral philosophy without God. Man's idea on the right thing to do. They leave God out of their principles.

This passage is not teaching us to be unhygienic, It is the tradition of ritualistically washing to remove any defilement that is being discussed.

What we say tells us what sort of people we are. If you never say anything good about people then you may have a critical spirit.

Our heart is what keeps us going. The heart needs to be cleansed from within. Sin defiles the heart. Without a root a plant would die. The Pharisees were rooted in a tradition rather than in God.

Be careful who you follow they can take us to places we wouldn't want to be. We must not follow those who are blinded by these things. Won't get to heaven by following the blind.

When Adam sinned we became a sinner. We have a sinful nature. Thoughts of doing wrong are sinful. It is enough to keep you out of heaven.

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Has your heart been cleansed? You need to be given a new nature - a new life - eternal life. The Lord Jesus Christ can give you this life.

Blood - speaks of Calvary's cross and the death of the Lord Jesus upon the cross. He was made sin for us. This means He was made a sacrifice for our sins. He was punished in order that you might be made clean. When He died He was being punished for all our sin. You can have your sins forgiven by coming to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to take away your sins. Ask Him to save you.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”.