

BREAKING FREE FROM LEGALISM

Matthew 15:1-20

Legalism rejects the authority of God's Word

Last week: Legalism is about man's rules, not relationship with God

Today: Legalism is about manmade religion, not true God worship

Christ & His disciples broke the traditions of the Elders / Pharisees 15:1-2

They didn't wash their hands before eating Mk 7:1-5; Jn 2:6

This was not commanded in the Bible

Pharisees broke God's commands by their traditions 15:3-6

Pharisees rejected the fifth commandment - Honor your parents 3-4; Ex 20:12; 21:17

By forming their own commandments - **CORBAN** 5; Lev 27:9-29

Thus they nullified God's Word - made it **LORDLESS** 6; Lk 6:46

They added to God's Word, subtracted from God's Word, changed God's Word

Pharisaical worship is hypocritical, heartless & vain - based on man's rules 15:7-20;

The Pharisees were unbelievers - they were blind guides 15:13-14 Is 29:11-15

The Pharisees were unclean - they had evil hearts 15:10-12, 15-20

The Pharisees trusted themselves & their word, not God & His Word Pr 3:5-6; Is 55:6-11

The Pharisees hated God's Word because they hated Christ Mt 12:14; Is 5:20

"You have heard...but I say" Mt 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44

Conclusions

1. The Bible doesn't contradict itself
2. To understand the Word of God you must know & love the God of the Word
3. If you love God, you will love & obey His Word Ps 119:165; Jn 14:15, 21, 23
4. Are you more concerned about your thoughts & traditions or God's truth?