



Week of Aug 20 - a

Scripture: Mt 15:1-9

Main Idea: The Pharisees and scribes start criticizing Jesus for not making his disciples follow the teachings of the elders. But Jesus corrects them by showing the vast difference between commandments of God, and traditions of men.

Questions

Preschool: Is it more important to follow God's commands or traditions that we have within our family/friends?

Grade school: Can you think of an example of someone breaking the command of God for the sake of human tradition? We have a 'human' tradition of our order of worship on Sundays. We sing, have a prayer, have a scripture reading, all in the same order each Sunday. Is that because God tells us exactly how to do that? If we switch that up and someone gets mad because its not the way we "always did it" does that make it wrong?

Teen: Which is more important, commandments from God, or traditions? Is it possible to say you are following or worshipping God but that not be where your heart is? What is God's doctrine and how is it different from precepts of men? How can you be sure you are sharing God's truths with others, and not traditions of men?

Adult: In this reading, we are seeing the hearts of the Pharisees and teachers of the law – religious leaders. Why do you think Jesus didn't answer their question directly? Do you think the leaders even realized that Jesus gave them an answer indirectly? Do you think this was a good place to answer a question with a question? Did the leaders finally know that all of this was about human rules, not God's law?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us recognize the difference between his will in scripture and our traditions

August Memory Verse:

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)
7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.



Week of Aug 20 - b

Scripture: Mt 15:10-20

Main Idea: Jesus teaches his followers that the problem with the Pharisees is they were focused too much on traditions and man made rules about what people eat, and not enough on what comes out of a person, namely their words.

Questions

Preschool: Eating healthy is good for our body. However, would God rather you eat healthy or speak kindly?

Grade school: What's more important, the order of our worship (songs, prayer, songs, scripture, songs, etc) or that when we worship we do it with a sincere heart of praise? Why?

Teen: What defiles man? Where do the things we speak come from? Do your words and actions indicate where your heart is? Can people see you have a heart for God by your words and actions?

Adult: How many places can you remember where Jesus talks about the actions of the heart? Why is the heart so important in the New Testament as opposed to the Old Testament? How many people do you think Jesus offended in this passage? We're told the Pharisees were. What do you think Peter felt when Jesus said "Are you still without understanding?" NIV says "...still so dull." Have you known someone who "talked a good game" but the actions of their heart revealed their true lack of concern for those around them? Do you think they realized that they gave themselves away?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us be faithful in our actions and our words.

August Memory Verse:

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)
7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.