

CLEAN HANDS AND DEFILED HEARTS

Matthew 15:1-20/ "Yeshua" §§79

Jesus had just done some amazing things in the area of Capernaum. He fed 5,000 people (more like 15,000 if you include women and children) by multiplying bread. He walked on water during a storm, and powerfully taught in the local synagogue. There were many who loved His miracles and moved closer to Jesus, but there were others who stopped following Him due to the 'hardness' of His teachings. There were still others, the Religious Leaders, who openly rejected Jesus and began to search for a reason to kill Him. Knowing this, Jesus stayed in the area of Galilee.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
	→ Clean Hands and Defiled Hearts
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

THE ACCUSATION (MATTHEW 15:1-2)

A delegation of Pharisees and Scribes traveled from Jerusalem to Galilee to attempt to find a reason to convict Jesus of breaking the law. They could not find anything Jesus had done that could come even close to breaking the Mosaic Law, so they accuse him of breaking another law. They accuse Him of breaking the tradition of the elders. Specifically, they accused Jesus of allowing His disciples to eat without properly washing their hands.

15 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ²“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”

JESUS RESPONDS TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES (MATTHEW 15:3-9)

Jesus does not answer their accusation by defending Himself. There is simply nothing to defend. He did not break the Mosaic Law. Instead, Jesus counterattacks. He exposes the scribes and Pharisees for who they really are, hypocrites. They had been using their man made traditions as an excuse to break God's Law, the Mosaic Law. They claimed to serve and love God, but they constantly sought ways to break and manipulate His Law, the Mosaic Law.

So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷You hypocrites!

JESUS INSTRUCTS THE PEOPLE (MATTHEW 15:10-11)

Jesus then turned to the crowd that must have gathered around them. You can imagine the intrigue and attention that a delegation from the Great Sanhedrin of Jerusalem would attract. Jesus moved away from these 'blind guides' and spoke directly to the people.

¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES (MATTHEW 15:12-20)

After the crowd dispersed, Jesus withdrew to a more private setting with His disciples. There in a nonpublic environment, Jesus explained His interaction with the Pharisees and the crowd. It is not what goes into the body that defiles a person, it is what comes out of the heart. Human tradition simply brings outward conformity, but cannot touch the real issue, the heart.

¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” ¹⁶ And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Ushers Needed: Contact Gerrie Griffin @ 760-315-1446

Grace Membership Class: March 22nd in the Youth Lounge

Voice of the Martyrs Advance Conference: March 14th

Sign up online: <https://www.vomadvance.com>

Women’s Ministry Craft Night: March 21st from 10:00AM-12:00 PM

Sign up at the Women’s Ministry Kiosk on the patio today!

3 on 3 March Madness Basketball Tournament: Sunday March 15th @1PM

Sign up online at gccramona.com or follow the QR code

