

Corban

Three kinds of religious people

1. Hear but do not obey
2. Hear and obey
3. Hear, obey, then add to the Word

Man-made laws in religion are not new – Mk.7

1: Pharisees and scribes: posse from Jerusalem

- Mk.6:53-56
- Pharisees ... came to attack Lord (3:6)

2: Saw disciples eating with defiled (unwashed) hands. **Defiled:** six times (2, 15, 18, 20, 23)

- a. Not bad manners, but uncleanness: sin
- b. Rabbis: feared attacks of demon, Shibta; liable to poverty and destruction...
- c. They view Jesus as great deceiver

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3: official (Scriptural) position: Jews do not eat unless they wash hands 'in a special way'...

- a. Tradition of elders: legal experts of old days
- b. Oral law . . . later, the Mishnah
- c. Pharisees regarded traditions handed down by great teachers as equal to Scripture

4: Market was especially defiling...

- a. Gentile might brush against a Jew...
- b. This is religious purification, not health issue
- c. Mishna: 30 chapters on cleansing of vessels

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5: Jews go on offensive: “Your disciples” – hold Jesus accountable for sins against Law

6-7: Isa.29:13 – (Jews repeat OT sins)

a. Lord’s focus: they are hypocrites

b. rabbis enormously increased regulations...

1) lip service

2) heart is far away

3) worship in vain

4) teach doctrines of men (v.3: elders)

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8: substitute tradition for God's law. Apostasy

A fence around the law actually replaces the Law

Scholars can be basest of people:
proud, dishonest, prejudiced, unbelieving

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9: they do a great job of rejecting . . .

a. 6:26: do not recognize; declare invalid...

b. that you may keep your tradition

10: Jesus turns to Scripture (< Moses)

a. Pharisees turn to tradition (v.5)

b. Scripture: 1400 years old; binding...

11-12: “but you say...” [emphatic]. (Cf. v.9) –

a. Assume they are greater than Moses (10)

b. **Corban**: gift to God; an escape of duty...

13: make void, nullify. Papyri: annulling contracts

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14-16: addresses common people

- a. Don't have to be expert in law to know truth
- b. Nothing from outside defiles?

17-19: Mt.15:12-14 – You offended the Pharisees

- Instead of apologizing, Jesus describes them and their tradition as a plant . . . Uprooted
- 17: curious hearts want to know
- 18: honest hearts wants to get it right
- 19: true hearts are not afraid of truth.
He purified all foods

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20-23: warning to disciples

a. Beware of sins: they do defile

b. 21: From the heart – all sin begins in thoughts

Food is not digested in the heart; but what comes out of the mouth begins in the heart. This is what defiles people.

Summary

6: lip service – no heart

7: vain worship – doctrines of men

8-9: abandoned God's commands for traditions

10: Law: honor father and mother

a. 11: Corban

b. 12: Gift to God, not parents

13: make void word of God, keep human traditions

I. Hypocrisy is Wrong

Jewish worship

Designed to give outward impression of great devotion to God

But their rules allowed them to evade, dodge the responsibilities of true faith . . .

Encouraged them to swell up in pride

- Mt.6:2-4...5...16-18
- Lk.18:9-14

Some who are inwardly corrupt
appear outwardly religious

Pharisees pretended concern for God's law, but
tried to kill God's Son! (Ex.20:13)

Some 'Christians' hate, envy, hold grudges,
nourish bitterness, pride ... but think they are
safe because

1. they attend regularly
2. others do bad things too
3. they do a lot of good things
4. nobody's perfect

Pharisees also
loved excuses

I. Hypocrisy is Wrong

II. Hypocrisy is a Common Source
of Human Doctrines

Jews used human tradition to shield hypocrisy

Many traditions and doctrines exist today...

1. Roman Catholicism: asceticism [abstained from marriage, foods, pleasure...] Gave appearance of great dedication... Ph.2:14-15
2. Mechanical music in worship: organ...gives impression of fervent religious activity. Ep.5:19
3. Institutionalism: HOT programs encouraged Christians to appreciate the great religious religious activity of sponsoring churches...

“Unfortunately, there are many ‘evangelical traditions’ in churches today, man-made teachings that are often considered as authoritative as the Word of God – even though they contradict His Word”

– Wiersbe

I. Hypocrisy is Wrong

II. Hypocrisy Source of Human Doctrines

III. Some Make Things Holy
That Ought to be Common

Jews made elders' tradition equal God's word

Today:

1. Common meals... 1 Co.11:34
2. Business to make money as work of the church.
Ep.4:28. 1 Co.16:1

I. Hypocrisy is Wrong

II. Hypocrisy Source of Human Doctrines

III. Some Make Things Holy...

IV. Some Make Things Common
That Ought to be Holy

Jews: made God's law of no effect

Today: same tricks used against the Lord's . . .

1. Church. Mt.16:18. Social / political org.

2. Name. Ps.111:9

3. Day. Some made it a day of sleep...
Ezk.22:26