

Written in Red: Words of Jesus

What makes you clean or filthy?

Matthew 15:1-20

Introduction

This was a fight Jesus wasn't looking for. But one he didn't shrink from. When some religious traditionalists took him on, Jesus stood toe-to-toe with them. And won the day!

Going through the motions but missing the point, v. 1-2

- Focus on behaviors but not attitudes
- Following human rules

When tradition trumps truth, v. 3-9

- Doing the right thing for the wrong reason
- Doing the wrong thing for the wrong reason

The heart of the matter, v. 10-20

- You may offend some people
- Don't be afraid to walk away from dead traditions
- We are more steeped in traditions than we realize
- What comes out of you is more important than what goes in
- When your heart overflows

Personal Response

Three probing questions to ponder

1. Is your relationship with God mostly about stuff you do and don't do, about required duties and obligations rather than matters of the heart?
2. Do traditions and habits outweigh revealed truth for you? Are you more influenced by the customs you were raised with than the truth of God?
3. How's your heart? The easiest way to know is by checking what comes out—especially out of your mouth.

Next Week: God and Money

Matthew 6:24