



## The Gospel According To MATTHEW

### Chapter 15

### “The Heart of Worship!”

*Go for God!* ~ Let's observe the HEART OF THE MATTER with three HEARTBEATS:

> Heartbeat #1 - (v1-20) LET'S NOT HAVE THE WRONG HEART OF RELIGION!

(v1-2) Where did these traditions come from?

- They were handed down from the teachers of previous generations. These traditions were originally the "oral law" which (said the rabbis) Moses gave to the elders, and they passed down to the nation. This oral law was finally written down and became the *Mishnah* (repetition).

- The *Mishnah* contains a written collection of traditional laws (*halakoth*) handed down orally from teacher to student. It was compiled across a period of about 335 years, from 200 BC to A.D. 135.

- The *Mishnah* is grouped into 63 treatises, or tractates, that deal with all areas of Jewish life-legal, theological, social, and religious-as taught in the schools of Palestine.

- Unfortunately, the *Mishnah* became more important and more authoritative than the original Law of Moses.

- The *Mishnah* became the first, and basic, part of what is called the *TALMUD*, which is a collection of books and commentary compiled by Jewish rabbis from A.D. 250-500.

- The Hebrew word *talmud* means "study" or "learning." This is a fitting title for a work that is a library of Jewish wisdom, philosophy, history, legend, astronomy, dietary laws, scientific debates, medicine, and mathematics.

- There are two Talmuds one is known as the *Jerusalem Talmud* and the other the *Babylonian Talmud*. The English edition of the Babylonian Talmud fills 36 volumes, almost 36,000 pages.

(v3-4) Jesus challenges these religious leaders with the fifth commandment - Exodus 20:12 - *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

Also, in Exodus 21:17 - *And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

- These Scriptures are in opposition to their oral tradition. To "honor" is to obey, to reverence, to speak kindly to, to speak and think well of.

- To "curse" is to disobey, to treat with irreverence, to swear at, to speak ill of, to think evil of in the heart, to meditate or do any evil to a parent.

(v5-6) Their tradition basically stated that they would not help their parents financially because they have dedicated the money to God. The Jews called this *Korban* (that which is consecrated to God and it cannot be changed). But the law of God required that a son should honor his parent; i.e., among other things, that he should provide for his needs when he was old and in distress.

- Yet the Jewish teachers said that it was more important for a man to dedicate his property to God than to provide for the needs of his parent. Jesus sums up the issue with “you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.”

- A false teaching (tradition) of the Roman Catholic Church is to pray to Mary and she will intercede for you, but what does the Bible say,

1 Timothy 2:5-7 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

John 14:12-14 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Romans 8:34 - Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- It was D.L. Moody, the great evangelist and Bible teacher who said, “The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it.”

(v7-9) Jesus rebukes these religious leaders by stating four facts:

- (1) They're hypocrites!*
- (2) They give lip service!*
- (3) They have heartless worship!*
- (4) They taught their traditions as Bible doctrine!*

(v10-14) Here, Jesus explains the issue at hand, or should we say of unwashed hands.

- The blind lead the blind into the ditch. How is one blind? By not reading, learning, and practicing the Word of God. - Psalm 119:105 reads; “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*”

- In James 1:21-22 we are told - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

(v15-20) Notice what “defiles” a man, “that which proceeds out of the mouth comes from the heart.” Which is full of evil thoughts (thought precedes action), murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

- Barnes writes, “These are the true sources of pollution in man. These are what corrupt and degrade. It is not the neglect of washing the body which defiles; it is the deep, inward corruption of the heart. And what a fountain of pollution is the human soul! What an array of crimes to proceed from the heart of man! What a proof of guilt! What strictness is there in the law of God! How universal is depravity!”

- Let's develop a HEART AFTER GOD by having:

- (1) a believing heart (Rom 10:9-10);*
- (2) a loving heart (Matt. 22:37);*
- (3) a worshipping heart (Col. 3:16);*

- (4) *an obedient heart (Rom. 6:17);*
  - (5) *a giving heart (2 Cor 9:7);*
  - (6) *a praying heart (Ps 51:10,17).*
- (For proper communication read James Ch. 3.)

**> Heartbeat #2 - (v21-31) Let's Have THE RIGHT HEART!**

(v21-28) **Observe the RIGHT HEART in this woman:**

- (v22-23) *She seeks Jesus!*
- (v25, 27) *She worships Jesus! She knows Jesus is Lord!*
- (v28) *She is a woman of faith!*

(v29-31) Jesus is truly God in the flesh, let's all GLORIFY HIM!

**> Heartbeat #3 - (v32-39) Let's have a BLESSED HEART!**

- Once again Jesus feeds another multitude, 4000 men plus women and children. For your information these people are primarily gentiles, because Jesus is in the region of what is called the Decapolis (ten cities), a mostly gentile demographic.

- Notice they received seven baskets full.

- Some commentators say that the last feeding, that is of the 5000 (Matt. 14:15-21) represented provision for Israel, because twelve baskets were collected, representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

- The Greek word for *basket* in Matthew 14:20 is *kofinous*, a small wicker basket. In Matthew 15:37 we have seven baskets full possibly representing the seven churches of Revelation, the provision for the church throughout the world. The word for *basket* in Mt. 15:37 is *spuridas*, which is a large hamper basket.

- Unfortunately, throughout history few Jews from the twelve tribes of Israel have received Jesus as their Messiah, on the other hand we've seen multitudes of Gentiles coming to Jesus Christ for salvation.

- The multiplication of loaves and fishes is a true miracle of God. Our hearts are blessed as we've received the true *bread of life*, our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*"

- Regarding the multiplication of fish, remember what Jesus said to all who believe in *Him*, He said, "*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*" (Matthew 4:19)

- Let's beware of the wrong heart of religion, while maintaining the right heart of relationship.

- May your hearts be blessed daily with the bread of life by seeking our Lord Jesus Christ, and let's be fishers of men, saving souls, making disciples, AMEN!

~ LET'S GO4GOD! ~