

How To Cancel The Commandments Of God

Matthew 15:1-9 (6)

Intro:

A. The disciples of Jesus were accused by the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem.

1. They had traveled quite a distance. **V.1**
2. This was one of many attempts to discredit Jesus.

B. They accused them of breaking tradition. V.2a

1. transgress = παραβαινω = "to step to one side."
2. tradition = παραδοσις = "delivery", the act of delivering over from one to another.
3. elders = πρεσβυτερος = "aged men"
4. The Jews believed that they had two sources of divine information. One was the law that Moses received on Mt. Sinai and wrote down. The second source was from those things told to Moses by God and passed on from father to son orally. The oral laws were eventually written down and became the Talmud. These accusers believed that the Talmud was as important as the commandments.

C. The "law" thy broke. V.2b

1. They did not follow a prescribed ceremony of washing their hands before they ate.
2. They had developed many strict rules. How much water, how many should use it, when should it be changed, etc. This had nothing to do with hygiene. It was all about religious cleansing and that external.

I. Jesus Answers The Pharisees And Scribes.

A. He answered by introducing them to a great wrong they were practicing. V.3

1. They had allowed tradition to become a way of side stepping laws they did not wish to keep.
2. The illustration Jesus used had to do with the obligation of children to parents.
3. transgress = (same as v.2)
4. tradition = (same as v.2)

5. commandment = εντολη = "that which has been enjoined," "moral injunctions," here, law.

B. The specific wrong they were doing. V.4

1. They were to honor their parents. Exodus 20:12
2. It carried the death penalty. Exodus 21:17

C. The tradition they used.

1. "That which might profit you is a gift."
V.5,6
2. They would declare any assets to be a dedicated gift to the work of God. This would constitute a vow and one must not break one's vow to God. Deuteronomy 23:21-23. In doing this they could bring one commandment into conflict with another one.
3. profit = ωφελεω = "to be of service"
4. of none effect = ακυρωω = "to make without authority, null, void, as in canceling a will. **V.6**
5. Mark 7:1-13
6. Not only should they wash their hands ceremonially but also many eating utensils.

II. Isaiah Had Prophesied Of Them.

A. "ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you saying." V.7

1. "You false ones" - Bas
2. "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you..."
3. Isaiah 29:13

B. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." V.8

1. draweth nigh = εγγιζω = "to draw near"
2. far from = πορωω = "far, far off"
3. "These people give me lip-service but hold their hearts far, far from me."

C. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." V.9

1. vain = ματην = "foolishly," "fruitlessly", "idly."

2. worship = σεβομαι = "to cherish," "to pay devotion", from, to be shy or timid, to shame one's self.
3. teaching = διδασκω = "to give instruction"
4. doctrines = διδασκαλια = "the result of teaching."
5. commandments = ενταλματα = "ordinances"
6. "For the lessons they teach are but human precepts" - Gspd