



Confronting Deceitful Traditions

In a casual but well-known confrontation, scribes and Pharisees questioned Jesus about the tradition of the elders, confronting him and his disciples. This was one of four different confrontations in Matthew 15.

- Scribes from Jerusalem and confronting deceitful tradition beginning in verse 1.
- The Multitudes in verses 10 and 11.
- The disciples in verses 12-14
- Peter in verses 15-20.

Scribes from Jerusalem

Confronting Tradition

(Mat 15:1-3 KJV) Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, {2} Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their



hands when they eat bread. {3} But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

The disciples apparently did not wash their hands before they ate, and were thus, by the elders, considered unclean. Jesus immediately brought it back to the real issue; that, by their traditions, those same elders transgressed the commandments of God.

(Mat 15:4-6 KJV) For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or

mother, let him die the death. {5} But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, *It is a gift*, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; {6} And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Verse 5 tells us what the disobedient children were doing. They were not taking care of their parents' needs; they would give gifts to God instead (so they would say), but they did this to avoid caring for or honoring their parents. In the Old Testament, this was punishable by death. The elders ignored this law and Jesus confronted them.

Literal according to usage:

v.4 For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and mother: and, he that curseth father or mother, he shall surely die.

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v5. But you say, whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, be that a gift dedicated to God, by whatsoever the parent might be helped of the son.

v6. And in the consequence of this avoidance you certainly do not honor his/your father or his/your mother, he shall be free. (By freeing the son for not taking care of father and mother, they have made the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition.)

Notes on verse 6:

“And he that curseth father or mother, let him die the death; temporal and eternal: and which is a positive commandment of God . . . , and is to be understood, not only of giving abusive language to parents, but of slighting, as the Hebrew word signifies, and neglecting them, taking no notice of them, when needy and in distress, to supply their wants.” <https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/15-4.html>

According to verse 8, serving traditions rather than God’s commandments is ‘lip service’ at its best.

(Mat 15:7-9 KJV) Ye

hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of [concerning] you, saying, {8} This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. {9} But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Old Testament reference

(Isa 29:13 KJV) Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept* of men [mortals]:

* precept [a commandment of men [mortals] in which they have been schooled : i.e. taught by rote].

Traditions

The world turns activities into tradition. We must observe personal worldly systems’ involvement, not only the religious ones, but all, and become well aware if we have been deceived. Biblically, this especially holds

true. Interestingly, so many traditions focus on bringing gain to their promoters. For instance, consider the United States’ megachurches or gigachurches, of which there are over 1500. Attendees are upwards in the 5-digit range, starting with 2000 and some exceeding 60000 or more. These are extremely wealthy intuitions, capable of bringing in from 10s of thousands of dollars, to millions per week. Company financial status is seldom published; the IRS doesn’t require financial reporting. Some churches do publish this information.

Traditional Economies

Definition

“A traditional economy is a system in which the development and distribution of goods and services are determined by customs, traditions, and time-honored beliefs.” <https://www.thoughtco.com/traditional-economy-definition-and-examples-5180499>

Regarding financial endeavors, traditions can be and often are involved. As a general rule, actively promoted financial systems could be laden with deception. Family and personal relationships generally define traditional

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economies, but, because of increased financial product complexities, more than these influencers could be at play. Moving past the general rule, traditional economies could be determined by its products; take, for instance, the standard American 'checking account.' Even this ultra-common, ever-present and ubiquitous tool could have a dark side. To determine a dark side in anything, it must be weighed against truth. Does it alter your ability to live the more than abundant life in Christ? Does it make you a slave to it through how it functions? Does it suppress the truth of God's Word? You could easily ask these questions about Crypto, financial loans, credit cards, and a myriad of financial products at your disposal.

I introduce this subject in order to promote consideration; deception is the name of the game and you are its primary target. Before you embed yourself into any system, deeply consider its weight. Simplicity does not tell all; comparison against the truth of freedom in Christ would be a better choice. Financial freedom is part of living free as a Christian. Bondage-free considerations

are vital to being set free in Christ.

Tradition vs. Debt-free Living

Christians should not be so indebted that they are essentially broke. Living a broke lifestyle is far beneath the more than abundant life.

The book of Romans is clear about the limits of debt in a Christian's life:

(Rom 13:8 KJV) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Verse 8 says to own no man anything.

John was clear about the limits of the more than abundant life:

(John 10:10 KJV) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus came that we might live a more than abundant life.

Deception Introduced

Now that the subject of financial systems' deceptions has been started, discussions can begin at the local fellowship level.

Tangible Freedom

Freedom from debt allows greater freedom in Christ. When and where a person is chained to a worldly system, he or she cannot experience purity of living as intended through the more than abundant life in Christ. We need to discuss ways to detach from worldly financial systems in an effort to achieve a debt-free lifestyle. Debt is a lifestyle; therefore, freedom from debt can also be a lifestyle. Being broke the day after you receive a paycheck is a lifestyle; having funds after you receive a paycheck, after the bills are paid, is also a lifestyle.

Break Yourself Free

Your lifestyle choices determine where in life you presently are. Make different choices to change your position. It is time to break yourself free from deceptive systems, traditions, customs and habits. It is time to walk in

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the freedoms offered by Christ Jesus through the more than abundant life. It is time to be spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and even financially free.

What choices can you make right now to change your lifestyle for the better? You've been thinking about this long enough; now is the time to decide, to change, and to become who you really are. Defy traditions and their associated deceptions. Embrace God's Word, the Gospel of Christ and the more than abundant life.

Open discussions within your family circles intent on dissolving fear, debt and darkness's chains. Especially, do not transgress the commandments of God [God's Word] by traditions.

Much Love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown