

SERIES: A HEART PLEASING TO GOD

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, February 11-12, 2023

SERMON: Following God's Heart

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:1-20

Matthew 15:1-20

- [1] Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked,
- [2] "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"
- [3] Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"
- [4] For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'
- [5] But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,'
- [6] they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
- [7] You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:
- [8] "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
- [9] They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."
- [10] Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.
- [11] What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."
- [12] Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"
- [13] He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.
- [14] Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."
- [15] Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."
- [16] "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.
- [17] "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?"
- [18] But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.
- [19] For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.
- [20] These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

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What does this tell us?

1. Follow _____.

- Don't get _____ in the "traditions of the Elders"
- **Isaiah 29:13-14** *The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught. Therefore, once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."*
- Don't give _____ to God.

2. Emphasize _____ and _____.

- No one should be treated as _____ or _____.

3. Emphasize _____.

- Our _____ and _____ come from God.
- **Genesis 1:26-28** *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" ... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."*
- _____ a "monkey see, monkey do" life.
- Learn to think _____.

4. I need a heart _____ to God.

- _____ from God, our hearts are _____.
- **Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*
- **Mark 7:19-21** *"For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come."*
- Only God can _____ your heart.

Lagniappe

I am reflecting today on a breakfast meeting I had this morning with a longtime friend and former student.

He asked a couple of standard questions: “How’s Martha?” and “How’s the church?”

Martha is always doing good 😊 so let me give an answer to “How’s the church?”

Here are a few snippets that will help answer that question:

- Our **Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study** group collected over \$15,000 for a ministry in Uganda to provide “birthing kits” for young mothers.
- We have a group gearing up to be trained for **Disaster Relief** as a ministry to the people in our community and around our part of the country.
- Last Sunday in our **Discovery Class** we had over 30 people who united with our church.
- We are in the process of starting 10 new adult **Bible Study Groups/Connect Groups** this calendar year.

If you would like to have additional information about how the church is doing with membership, finances, Bible studies, and connect groups, we have a **congregational meeting** to discuss those issues this **Wednesday Night – February 15th @ 6:45** in Central Hall. You are invited to attend.

Waylon