

The Following Message is Message #084B

TRUTH AND TRADITION

Text: Mark 7:1-13

I. What is tradition

Webster gives the following definitions in the 1828 Dictionary

1. Delivery; the act of delivering into the hands of another.
2. The delivery of opinions, doctrines, practices, rites and customs from father to son, or from ancestors to posterity; the transmission of any opinions or practice from forefathers to descendants by oral communication, without written memorials.
3. That which is handed down from age to age by oral communication.

THE WORD IN GREEK LITERALLY MEANS A GIVING OVER

II. We have traditions in many areas of life

-School Sports program

-Legal matters

Jeremiah 32:11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:

-Family

Jeremiah 35:1-2 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying, Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

Jeremiah 35:6-7 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons forever: Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.

-Religion

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

THESE TWO VERSES SEEM BE ONLY TIME TRADITION IS SPOKEN OF IN A POSITIVE LIGHT

III. Times when things get out of focus

When simple act/belief-tradition-is elevated above the Word of God

That is what is happening in our text

In passage we see people coming to check on Jesus v. 1

They had heard of the miracles that were taking place and they decided there was a need to see what was going on

It did not take them long to find fault with things that were taking place

Want to use this story and think a while about

Truth and Tradition

Three things that we will consider to as we study together

I. A Tradition Held v. 3, 4

A. Notice a phrase in this passage

“which they have received to hold” v. 4-what a tradition is

Notice these were traditions of the elders v.3

These “traditions” were broken into three parts:

1. Oral laws given by Moses or other fathers
2. Decisions of judges-formed what might call today a “precedent”
3. Interpretations of Rabbis and their teaching III. Questions about divorce

These were all things that apostle Paul was very zealous for before came to Christ

Galatians 1:13-14 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

B. I have a simple question- is there anything wrong with these traditions by themselves

Notice what the tradition was-couple of things listed

1. Washing of hands

Anything wrong with that-don't we pretty much do the same thing

Moses knew something about communicable diseases-laws of hygiene-isolation in OT

Not find this particular commandment in written law-why it is a tradition

2. Washing of pots etc... v.4

Again on the surface is anything wrong with this

I Hope want to eat with clean dishes on a clean table

I am aware they turned it into a great show-but in itself there is nothing wrong

C. This is true of many things people observe today

VAST MAJOIRTY OF OUR TRADITIONS ARE HARMLESS

I am not talking about things that violate the Word of God

Clearly that is wrong on its face-talking about things we do our of tradition

1. Leave verses out of hymns

2. Stand to read Word of God

3. Places we sit an park that claim as ours

Many other things that have adopted in our Baptist churches

Not wrong in and of themselves-need to be observed for what they are traditions

II. A Tradition Violated

A. One thing you can be sure of with any tradition

You can rest assured that somebody will violate it

Often times it will not be people out looking for trouble

Just people who are not aware of your tradition

- Parking places-places where we sit

-Change order of service-take offering at different time

-Wearing coat in pulpit

B. Again stress the point I am talking about tradition not the Word of God

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WORD OF GOD ANY TRADITIOIN

Traditions get started, and people endure traditions for a long time. They even mix it up with practical obedience to the living Word of God.

JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY NOT DO IT OUR WAY NOT MEAN THEY WORNG

C. Sad to see people mad about tradition being broken

Most church fusses start over things that are insignificant in the light of eternity

We get upset because someone did things different from "the way we always do it"

III. A Tradition Rebuked

A. Lord does what he does when children attacked

Steps in and intervenes-it may not always be done right away

When you mess with His children-going to have to deal with Him

B. Notice what lord said they had done vs. 6, 7

Notice he mentions their doctrine-basic fundamentals of a faith

What did he say their doctrines were-commandments of men

TRADITION CAN AUTHENTICATE A FACT, BUT NOT ESTABLISH A DOCTRINE.

Sad often times that what have passing for doctrines

C. Notice illustration given in our passage vs. 9-13

Tradition is never to be elevated to the position of/above Word of God

WHAT CATHOLICISM HAS DONE-WHY SO STEEPED IN RITUALISM

Because the apostles' oral word, whenever they claim inspiration, was as trustworthy as the written word, it does not follow that the oral word of those neither apostles nor inspired is as trustworthy as the written word of those who were apostles or inspired.

NO TRADITION OF THE APOSTLES EXCEPT THEIR WRITTEN WORD CAN BE PROVED GENUINE ON CERTAIN EVIDENCE.

I am not trying to downplay importance of history-I am saying we need to trust Word of God

Many other examples could be given of how Jesus dealt with this

For instance the Sabbath day-always finding fault with the Lord

THE LORD VIOLATED THE WAY THEY THOUGH IT SHOULD BE KEPT

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

How sad when Churches forsaken Word of God for man's opinion

D. What will happen when somebody violates your tradition

YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF THINKING THEY DO NOT LOVE GOD LIKE YOU DO

BEGIN TO ASSIGN MOTIVES-BE JUDGES OF PERSON'S HEART BASED ON FALSE STANDARDS

Then we get to point where we do not love and minister to people like we should

Again I am not talking about violating Word of God-Your tradition

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Clear as well on matters of salvation

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: