

RUSSELL SANDERS

10-14-2021

MATTHEW 15:1-20 LESSON 7

TRADITIONS OF THE CHURCH – PART 4

Jesus' word to his disciples about planting and rooting up (verse 13) mystified them. They seldom understood the meaning of parables he spoke. Peter in verse 15 questioned him. Jesus replied (my paraphrase), "Have y'all been with me all this time and you still don't understand what I teach?"

Jesus went on to explain the parable in simple terms in verses 17-20. He said that whatever goes into the mouth to enter the belly ends up being cast out of the body through feces. It does not defile the man. It is what is in the heart (spirit of man) that comes out of the mouth that can defile a man. In Matthew 12:34 it says, "***O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.***" The spirit of a man reveals his true nature.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "***The heart (of the unsaved) is deceitful above all (other) things. Who (but God) can know it (the heart)?***"

James 3:6, 8 says "***...the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity (lawlessness), so is the tongue...that it defileth the whole body (person).***"

Jesus then referred back to the original accusation of the Pharisees that his disciples were unclean because they did not do the tradition of washing their hands before eating causing them to be unclean and defiled. He said in verse 20, "***...to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.***" It is what is in his heart that defiles him. His speech in words (and actions) reveals that inner defilement.

If you spend your time listening to people (instead of talking) you will learn a lot about them which is a benefit to you. Words reveal a lot. Choose yours wisely. Talk less and listen more.