

RUSSELL SANDERS
10-10-2021
MATTHEW 15:1-20
LESSON 3

After Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees (verses 3-6) for breaking the fifth commandment in their manner of dishonoring their parents he further rebuked them for the very source (heart) of hypocrisy.

He said in verses 7-8, ***“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias (Isaiah) prophesy of you saying, ‘This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.’”*** He cited Isaiah 29:13. He nailed them by quoting scripture which they very well knew.

Many people, religious and non-religious, give lip service to God or acknowledge Jesus in words they speak, but without “heart” service. Their words are idle and hollow because they are not of true faith in their spirit. What is in their spirit, or heart, is what truly motivates them. A hypocrite, one who looks good and sounds good, but speaks from a carnal spirit, not the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke in Luke about the heart (spirit) of a good man and an evil man. He said in Luke 6:45b ***“for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”*** An unregenerated (unsaved) person cannot in true sincerity speak the wonderful things of God; they speak spiritual matters from insincerity or from lack of spiritual understanding. Yes, that is lip service only. Their heart is not with God, only their words or good deeds or a good “show.”

When your heart is right with God, nothing in life is more important to you than your relationship with Him.