

Why Do Some People Believe Differently ?

Lesson 27

Matthew 15:1-11; 22:15-22

Memory Verse

Guide me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior and my hope is in You all day long. Psalm 25:5

Introduction

Has anyone ever gotten upset with you because you didn't play a game by the "rules?" Let's see what happens when people ask Jesus about rules.

Scripture

Matthew 15:1-2

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

While Jesus was telling people about God, there were other people who believed that the only way to Heaven was to obey every little rule. These people were called Pharisees. They had many, many rules that they followed. One rule was to wash their hands 12 times before they ate dinner.

Discussion

Ask: What ritual did the Pharisees have?

One time, they asked Jesus why His friends did not wash their hands before they ate. Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He knew that in their hearts they had done wrong even though they acted like they were perfect on the outside.

Jesus knew that following rules would not get a person to Heaven He knew that the only way was to trust Him and believe in Him. When He explained this to the Pharisees, they were angry and tried to find ways to trap or trick Jesus.

Matthew 15:3-11

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth that is what makes him 'unclean.' "

Discussion

Ask: What did Jesus say to the Pharisees?

He told the Pharisees that they were hypocrites. That means that they said one thing around people but did the opposite when no one was looking. They pretended to worship God in front of others. However, in private, their hearts were far from loving God. They pretended that they were better than other people. Jesus knew that they were just like everyone; they had done wrongs.

When Jesus told them what was true, they despised Him for saying this and tried to find ways to get rid of Him. Instead of seeing their mistakes and doing the right thing, they blamed Jesus and tried to find ways to hurt Him.

Another time the Pharisees asked Jesus a question. Before they asked Jesus the question, they said many nice things. Jesus knew that they were trying to “butter Him up.” That means that they were trying to pretend that they liked Him. They didn’t fool Jesus at all.

Scripture

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Discussion

Ask: What did the Pharisees ask Jesus?

They asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to Caesar, the king.

Ask: What did Jesus say?

Jesus knew that they were trying to trick Him. In fact, He even told them that! He also called them hypocrites again!

Ask: What did Jesus do?

Jesus asked to see a coin they used to pay the tax. When they gave Him a coin, He asked whose picture was on it. They told Him that Caesar’s picture was on it. He told them that they should give to Caesar what was Caesar’s money and give to God what was God’s money.

The Pharisees were amazed at Jesus’ wisdom. They could not trick Him at all. Sometimes, even now, there are people who believe different things. Sometimes they believe just because someone told them something. Instead, a person should find out for themselves what is true.

Ask: How does a person know what is right and what is not?

God wants us to look in His Word, the Bible, to discover for ourselves what is true. The important thing is to see how God deals with things. Some people may use one sentence to explain why they believe a certain thing. God wants us to look at the Bible as a whole to discover what is right. As we pray and ask God for wisdom and understanding, He will help us know right from wrong.

Ask: What does the Bible say about vengeance?

Someone may read in the Old Testament that it is OK to take an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Just looking at that one verse a person may think it is OK to take revenge on others. However, when a person looks at the rest of the Bible and reads where Jesus said it is best to love your enemies, a person realizes that God wants us to love instead of taking revenge.

Ask: Will everyone go to heaven?

Another thing that some people think is that everyone will go to Heaven. When we read the Bible, it shares that God has a way for us to go to Heaven. We must believe in Jesus and trust Him in our hearts. When we do this, He will clean away the wrongs we have done. He promises to take us to Heaven one day. He also promises to stay with us forever.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?**Romans 10:9-10**

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.