

Empty Worship: Confusing the Commandments of Man with the Doctrine of God, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 14-15.
- B. God wants to cleanse our hearts.
- C. God wants true worship. (Isaiah 66)
- D. Empty worship is intolerable to God. (Proverbs 21:27)
- E. Worship must come from a pure heart.
- F. There are several glimpses of Jesus in relationship to worship.

II. Jesus as the compassionate healer.

- A. Everyone who touched Jesus was made immediately well.
- B. In spite of the people's commitment to Jesus only for their needs, he showed them compassion and healed them.

III. Jesus as the condemning judge.

- A. The religious leaders came to discredit Jesus publicly.
- B. Any time one has a religion with Scripture plus tradition, there is a problem. The leaders fit their tradition into Scripture.
 - 1. They lost the distinction between tradition and the Law of God.
 - 2. They believed that ceremonial washings kept them clean from the demonic and Gentiles. Old Testament washings were outward signs of inward realities. (Exodus 19, Leviticus 15:17)
- C. Jesus dismissed the tradition.
 - 1. All that matters is tradition.
 - 2. He accused them of breaking the law clearly in other matters. (Exodus 20:12; 21:17)
 - 3. Jesus called them hypocrites, that is, spiritual phonies. (Isaiah 29:13; 8:8)
 - 4. True righteousness comes from the heart. (Matthew 5:20)

Application Questions:

1. What are some ways that false-worship manifests itself in the church today?

2. How have you seen tradition have a negative influence on the church?

3. What commands in Scripture have you tended to neglect? How can you get back on the right track?
