

**Pursuing Friendship with God
Don't Come to Church...
Mt. 15.1-9**

June 14, 2009

REVIEW: Last Week's Message - Don't Get Saved...

1. Abraham became the friend of God. Jas. 2.23/ Ge. 18
2. Abraham didn't just get saved, he became a kingdom man. Ge.12.1-3
3. Abraham became the Father of faith. Romans 4.17

The text we're using is very interesting. It clearly shows Jesus ability to debate with anyone on any level. No wonder the temple officers were so blown away by Him at twelve years of age. In the text the Pharisees have accused the disciples of breaking the commandments of God because they ate bread and didn't wash their hands. Now we know that washing your hands before you eat is a good thing to do but is it a sin if you don't? And Jesus makes clear that the traditions and precepts of men cannot become more important than the commandments or principles of the word. He does this by asking the same men who excuse men for neglecting their elderly parents why the big deal over unwashed hands.

We as Christians have set up our own precepts and we teach them as if they are God's commandments. Communion is on first Sunday. You have to wear a suit and tie to church. You have to attend church in a building that looks a certain way. The songs must be sung a certain way with certain types of instruments. You have to wear white when you get baptized. And the top of the list is that all you need to do to be a good person is go to church. Any church. Church of your choice. And if you go to a pretty good church just "go to church" and everything will be alright.

Don't Come to Church...

Mt. 15.1-9

1. Jesus calls us to care for others! 1 John 4:8

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love

He uses the care and love of parents as the example of caring for if you won't care for the person who cared for you then who would you care for. Love is the KINGDOM LANGUAGE

- Love can be taught by attending church but not replaced by it!
- Loving others not church attendance says we love God.
- What's up with people going to church with people and they can't even love those people?

2. Jesus calls us to make His Word our priority! Matt 15:6

And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

- We have placed tradition above the Word as if it's the Word.

Coming to church is a tradition. It's not a bad tradition but when coming to church becomes the focus then it places us in spiritual danger. If coming to church made you spiritual Black people would be leading the world in revival!

- We have to come to church to learn not just to shout!

You can rejoice over the word and still learn from the Word. Sometimes the more engaging the preacher the less we learn and the more we just enjoy. We have to prepare to learn from the Word of God.

- We have to come to find our place in the kingdom!

3. Jesus Calls us to worship with our hearts! John 4:23-25

23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Don't Come to Church...

Mt. 15.1-9

- No more lip service let's be kingdom people! Vs. 8
- No more vain worship let's honor the King! Vs. 9
- No more putting man's tradition above the word of God, let's walk in a kingdom word! Vs. 9

Heb 10:22-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

DON'T GO TO CHURCH GET CONNECTED TO THE KINGDOM! MT.6.33