



Pastor Scott Velain

Matthew 14b And 15

Miracles, Traditions, And The Law

During our past study last week, we talked in detail about why it was that Herod the tetrarch believed that Yeshua was the reincarnation of John the Baptist whom he had murdered on his birthday. And we went into some detail concerning why it is that Herod would've thought that Yeshua was the reincarnation of John the Baptist.

Once again, when we as true God-fearing Messiah following cross bearing Christians all read the same God breathed Scripture together and study these same God breathed Scripture, we do wind up walking and talking a lot alike. What is important to one of us becomes important to all of us and it is because we have the same goal in life and in death that it would be very easy for someone to think that after our passing we might be reincarnated by watching or listening to a brother or a sister in the faith.

But for those of us who read our Bibles, we know that there is only the resurrection and that it is appointed for man to die once and then the judgment. However, for those who have no faith death has a much different meaning and because they have no faith and do not understand what death is, many people are easily led astray and into thinking and believing in all kinds of pagan rituals and traditions and beliefs which once again points to the fact that Herod the tetrarch clearly was not a Christian.

We also touched on the feeding of the more than 5000 that we see in Matthew chapter 14 verses 13 through 21. And the reason that we say that Yeshua fed more than 5000 is because in Matthew chapter 14 verse 21 we are told that those who ate were about 5000 men, besides women and children. And so, the women and the children were not counted in that number which lets us know that the number of people that our Messiah fed that day was far greater than just 5000. Keeping this in

mind, I'd like us to go back this morning and reread Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 through 36 just to refresh our memories about where we are in our study here this morning. And so, let's turn back to **Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 through 36 E1**

Jesus Walks on the Water

Mat 14:22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Mat 14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Mat 14:24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

Mat 14:25 And **in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.**

Mat 14:26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, **they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.**

Mat 14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."**

Mat 14:28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

Mat 14:29 He said, **"Come."** **So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.**

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

Mat 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, **"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"**

Mat 14:32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 14:33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, **"Truly you are the Son of God."**

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

Mat 14:34 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Mat 14:35 And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick

Mat 14:36 and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. **And as many as touched it were made well.**

As we read about our Messiah feeding more than 5000... it's important to also realize that this exact same story is retold by three other apostles who were also there at the time that this miracle had taken place. We can find this exact same story told by Mark in chapter 6 of the book of Mark verses 32 through 44. And we can hear the apostle Luke's interpretation of this story found in chapter 9 of the book of Luke verses 10 through 17. And we can also hear the apostle John's interpretation

of this exact same story found in the book of John chapter 6 verses one through 13 and they all essentially agree and say the exact same thing. However, the apostle John adds something that I find very intriguing to his interpretation of this event. And so, I would like us to go back and read the apostle John's account of this event because John gives us a little more information than the other Apostles do. Let's turn very quickly to **John chapter 6 verses one through 15 E2**

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Joh 6:1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

Joh 6:2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.

Joh 6:3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

Joh 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

Joh 6:5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?"

Joh 6:6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

Joh 6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,

Joh 6:9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

Joh 6:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

Joh 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

Joh 6:12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."

Joh 6:13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

Joh 6:14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Joh 6:15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

And so, once again the apostle John pretty much tells us the exact same thing that the apostle Matthew has just told us in Matthew chapter 14 but there is something that neither Matthew nor Mark nor Luke mention in their accounts of this event. And that is, the reaction that the people had to this miracle that had just fed far more than 5000 people. Notice in John chapter 16 verse 15 we are told that the people at that time were going to come and take Yeshua by force in order to make him their

king, but that Yeshua withdrew again to the mountains by himself.

What I find so ironic about this statement that John makes here is the fact that Yeshua was already their king. There was no need for them to take him and to force him to be their king because he already was. And just to drive this fact home I would like us to once again go reread second Samuel chapter 7 verses 1 through 17 because it is here in the Old Testament that Yehovah God had made a covenant promise with David his faithful servant. And this promised covenant that God had made with David had already proclaimed that Yeshua would be the King who would sit on the throne of the house of Israel and that it would indeed be the offspring of David that Yehovah God would establish a throne and a kingdom for forever.

When David had realized that he himself lived in a house of cedar and yet God was living in a tent... it made sense to David to build Yehovah his Elohim a house better than his own to dwell in. But when Yehovah hears David's plan to build him a house Yehovah turns the tables on David and actually tells David that Yehovah is going to make David a house. And this is incredibly important for us to catch and to make note of because this is exactly how our Father in heaven always works.

All of the sacrifices that were ever made at the temple to God were all given back to the house of Israel and the Levitical priesthood and the High Priest. Everything that we ever give to our Father in heaven is given back to us immeasurably. And this is a concept and a biblical understanding that we need to understand.

Every time we show our love for our Father in heaven, he quadruples it and sends that blessing right back down to us and to our children and to our children's children. There has never been a time when anyone has offered their love to Yehovah that Yehovah has not quadrupled that love and turned it right back around and bestowed it upon them. How incredibly important is it for us to understand this biblical concept? And this is exactly what we see happening concerning David.

Nothing is ever given to our Father in heaven that he does not reciprocate in giving back to us tenfold. We simply cannot love him the way that he loves us. It is impossible for us to love him the way that he loves us. Because he is all-knowing and all understanding... because his wisdom is greater than our wisdom is... because his knowledge far outweighs our knowledge... it is impossible for us to love him as much as he loves us. And this is exactly why as much as we stumble

and fall, as much as we anger him, as much as we fail, he never gives up on us. Even after divorcing the house of Israel and scattering them into the nations because of their wickedness and their deceit and because they played the whore and chased after other little “g” gods, just like the story of Hosea who Yehovah commanded to marry a prostitute and to have children by that prostitute... Yehovah always returns to us in our darkest hour. As we sit on a dirt floor being sold as slaves... he... just like Hosea... returns to buy us back and to remove our chains of slavery and to return us to our rightful place with him in a safe and peaceful dwelling.

And so, just to make sure that we stay on track concerning exactly who our Messiah was, is, and always will be; I'd like us to go back to second Samuel chapter 7 but instead of just simply reading versus 12 through 17, I'd like us to read verses one through 17 beginning at the top of second Samuel chapter 7. **Second Samuel chapter 7 verses 1 through 17 E3**

The Lord's Covenant with David

2Sa 7:1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,

2Sa 7:2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

2Sa 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

2Sa 7:4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,

2Sa 7:5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?'

2Sa 7:6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.

2Sa 7:7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

2Sa 7:8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.'

2Sa 7:9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

2Sa 7:10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

2Sa 7:11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will

make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

David loved Yehovah so much that he couldn't stand the fact that David himself lived in a cedar house while Yehovah was living in a tent. And so once again David begins to make plans to build Yehovah a much more immaculate house than even he was living in as the King of Israel. But once again, the love that David was bestowing upon our Father in heaven was quadrupled and sent right back down upon the head of David. And I suppose you could say that the moral to this story is that no matter what we do as mere mortal men... we will never be able to surpass our Father in heaven in anything including but not limited to... love.

And so, when we read in the book of John that after our Messiah feeds more than 5000 people and that the people were so grateful that they wanted to take him by force and force him to be their King... this should bring a smile to our faces because this is exactly what our Father in heaven had in mind from the very beginning. The very unfolding plan of salvation itself was that Yehovah would take from the body of his faithful servant David and create his offspring that would sit as King on the throne of David over the house of Israel Yehovah's children forever.

You see, the Most High Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will always remain the Most High Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Just as Yehovah has already told us within the confines of his Torah there are no other gods like him that are before him and there will be no other gods that are like him after him. He is the Most High El Elion. And our Most High Elohim has set before us a human King to sit upon the throne of his human servant David to be our human High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. And just as it is written; “David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel” (**scrn 1**)

David Shall Never Lack “A MAN”

Jer 33:17 “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

Jer 33:18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”



And so, even though our Messiah withdrew himself from the crowds that day the people did indeed receive their wishes in full. It was indeed this man who had performed this miracle through the power of Yehovah God his Father that would indeed rule and reign over them as King and not just for a lifetime... but forever.

And what a beautiful revelation this is for us to see as we are reading through these God breathed Scripture that do once again proclaim the truth and only the truth to those of us who have been blessed with the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Which brings us on into Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 through 23 where Yeshua actually walks on water.

In Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 through 33 we are once again told about the story of the apostles being at sea in the middle of a horrendous storm when they see Yeshua walking towards them on the water. And of course, the apostle Peter calls out to Yeshua and tells him to command him to come to him on the water and Yeshua does this and commands Peter to come to him. And it is written in Matthew chapter 14 verse 29 that Peter actually got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Yeshua. It wasn't until Peter realized where he was and what he was doing that he began to sink and then cried out for Yeshua to save him which of

course he did.

At first glance we might think that there is not much to learn here other than our Messiah is once again simply performing another miracle. But I would submit to you my friends that there is a tectonically mammoth spiritual message being delivered here within this short story of the events that took place concerning this event!

How often are we filled with the Ruach Hakodesh, the very spirit of God himself and know right down to our boots that the spirit of Yehovah is in us and dwelling securely deep within our very bones and yet... as soon as we get up off of our knees and turn to face the world... the world immediately snatches that memory from us by instilling fear into our hearts and into our souls?

How many times do we have to remind ourselves who we are and what spirit dwells within us? How many times do we forget throughout the day who we are and what spirit dwells within us? How many things arise throughout the day... how many circumstances... how many events... how many problems... how many troubles... how many fearful things get in the way of our faith and our knowing who we are and what spirit dwells within us? How many times does the fear of defeat cause us to forget who we are and what spirit dwells within us? How many times does even death itself strike so much fear into our hearts... that we forget who we are and what spirit dwells within us?

Peter was absolutely fine. Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water and walked all the way to our Messiah until... he realized that he was still in the world. And as soon Peter realized that he was still in the world... Peter began to sink and once again needed to cry out for help. And what was our Messiah's response to him? Our Messiah says to Peter, and I quote, "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?".

Oh you of little faith, why do you doubt?

The reason that we doubt is because everything that we touch, taste, smell, hear and see has to do with this world that we now live in. And it is because we naturally think that everything that we touch, taste, smell, hear and see is all there is... we fear what we think reality is. And this is exactly why our Messiah came. He came to wake us up. He came to unplug us from the matrix. He came to remind us that we are not worldly beings... but spiritual beings. It is not the flesh that rules. It is not

the flesh that goes on to live forever. It is not the flesh that enters into the kingdom of Yehovah. It is not the flesh that our Messiah came to save. It is not the flesh that Yehovah wants to return to him. It is the spirit that we are that must rule over the flesh. It is the spirit that goes on to live forever. It is the spirit that enters into the kingdom of Yehovah. It is the spirit that we are... that our Messiah came to save. It is the spirit that Yehovah wants to return to him.

Nowhere is it written in all of the Bible that our flesh will be saved or that our flesh will go on to live forever, or that our flesh will enter the kingdom of God, or that our flesh shall rule over our spirit. It is written that the flesh will return to the dust of the earth from where it once came and that the spirit also will return to Yehovah from where it once came. And this is exactly what Peter forgot and this is exactly what caused Peter to begin... to sink.

Many of us say that we believe. Many denominational empires of men have long taught that it is because we say that we believe that we are saved. But you won't find that nonsense written anywhere within the confines of your God breathed Scripture. When we read the whole of the Bible and understand the whole message of the Bible which is our God breathed Scripture... only a village idiot would believe that all he has to do is to speak with his tongue and say that he believes in order to be saved. True belief is directly tied to true faith. **(scrn 2) SHOW ONLY**

Faith Without Works Is Dead!

Jas 2:17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Jas 2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Jas 2:25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Jas 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.



The apostle James tells us very clearly in James chapter 2 verse 17 that faith by itself, if it does not have works... Is dead. And this also works with what you believe. If your belief does not have works, then your belief is no longer belief, it's just empty words.

James tells us in James chapter 2 verse 26 that for as the body apart from the spirit is dead... so also faith apart from works is dead. And this also applies to what you say that you believe in. If you say that you believe, but your belief has no works, then your belief becomes unbelief.

You see both faith and belief are synonymous with one another. Both faith and belief biblically speaking are action words that require action in order to be “justified”. Not in order to be saved in mind you... but in order to be “justified”. And there is a stark difference between being saved and being justified. Being justified proves your faith. Being justified proves your belief. If you say that you love God... and yet you do nothing in order to justify your proclamation of love... then your love can no longer be called “love”. Because your love is not justified in action.

The church today by and large proudly proclaims that we are not saved by our

works and this is absolutely true. The apostle Paul himself went through great strides in order to help us understand that we are indeed not saved by our works but by the grace of God. But this does not negate our good works. Because we are not saved by our works does not stop us from doing good works. Because we are not saved by our works does not stop us from being obedient. Because we are not saved by our works does not stop us from keeping his commandment. Because we are not saved by our works does not mean that the law of God has become a curse.

Because we are saved, and because we do have faith, and because we do believe, our good works and our obedience justify the fact that we are saved. Our good works and obedience justify our faith. Our good works and obedience justify our belief and our faith. And because our good works and our obedience do justify our belief and our faith... there is no question in the mind of our Father in heaven or his only begotten Son that our belief and our faith... is tried and true.

Do as thou wilt is not the whole of the law. And those who teach that do as thou wilt is the whole of the law have no justification. There is no proof in what they believe. There is no proof in the faith that they say that they have. And there is no proof because there is no justification. They honor him with their lips while their hearts are far from him worshiping him in vain teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

How deep can we go into the Scripture? How deep is the spiritual message being delivered to us here in the book of Matthew? Just how deep is the proverbial rabbit hole? Do you see it? Do you hear it? Do you feel it? Or are you completely oblivious to it? Oh, you of little faith... why do you doubt?

The story of our Messiah walking on water has been taken out of context by many of today's modern-day man-made denominational empires and their charters of men. But those of us who have spiritual eyes and spiritual ears have been blessed with the ability to know better. True faith and true belief are completed by our good works. And our good works do indeed justify our faith and our belief in the eyes of our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son. And it is obedience... that justifies our belief and our faith. Our Messiah justified his faith and justified his belief through his obedience. And just as our Messiah justified his faith and his belief through his obedience, we too are called to justify our faith and our belief through obedience even unto death. Not says I, but says our God breathed Scripture.

And as we leave Matthew chapter 14, we see our Messiah once again healing the sick in Gennesaret and as many as who touched his very garment were healed once again proving... “justifying”... his faith, his belief, and his Father’s word that he came to deliver to us through his obedience to his Father in heaven. It was indeed the good works of our Father in heaven that our Father in heaven did through his only begotten Son that justified the claim of Yeshua as being the only begotten Son of God.

You see my friends’ words are simply not enough. Anyone can say anything at any time, but this does not make it true. Let me repeat that; “Anyone can say anything at any time”. And what anyone says is nothing more than assumption without justification. If you tell me that it’s raining outside this does not mean that it’s raining outside. Once you open the door and show me that it’s raining outside... then you are justified in your proclamation. But until you move to open the door and show me... that it’s raining outside you have no justification for saying that it’s raining outside. Do we understand the difference between being saved by our works and being justified by our works? My hope and my prayer is that we do.

It was these miracles... these healings that were handed down from on high that justified our Messiah’s claim as being the Son of God. It was through our Messiah’s good works that we knew that our Messiah was justified in saying that he was the Son of God. And just as he was justified through his good works... we are also called to pick up our crosses and to follow him and to die as he did and to walk as he walked justifying our faith and our belief through our good works and obedience to him.

And all of this leads us right out of Matthew chapter 14 and right on into Matthew chapter 15 which I promise you is going to be equally as interesting if not more so than Matthew chapter 14. And so, with that being said let’s go ahead and venture into Matthew chapter 15 by reading chapter 15 for ourselves so that we can know exactly what it says and just as importantly exactly what it does not say. **Matthew chapter 15 E4**

Traditions and Commandments

Mat 15:1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,

Mat 15:2 “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”

Mat 15:3 He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the

sake of your tradition?

Mat 15:4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'

Mat 15:5 But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God,"

Mat 15:6 he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

Mat 15:7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

Mat 15:8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

Mat 15:9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

What Defiles a Person

Mat 15:10 And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand:

Mat 15:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

Mat 15:12 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

Mat 15:13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.

Mat 15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

Mat 15:15 But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us."

Mat 15:16 And he said, "Are you also still without understanding?"

Mat 15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?

Mat 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Mat 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Mat 15:20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Mat 15:21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Mat 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

Mat 15:23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

Mat 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Mat 15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

Mat 15:26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to

the dogs.”

Mat 15:27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

Mat 15:28 Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Jesus Heals Many

Mat 15:29 Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there.

Mat 15:30 And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them,

Mat 15:31 so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

Mat 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

Mat 15:33 And the disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?”

Mat 15:34 And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.”

Mat 15:35 And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground,

Mat 15:36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

Mat 15:37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

Mat 15:38 Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Mat 15:39 And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Once again, we are given a ton of information here in Matthew chapter 15 that needs to be properly understood because I would submit to you my friends that far too many people have taken Matthew chapter 15 out of context in order to build for themselves another whole new man-made religion. And this is something that we cannot afford to fall for in these last days that we are now living in.

One of the very first things that we see here in Matthew chapter 15 is the Pharisees and the scribes once again treating their own traditions as commandments of God.

The hypocrisy of these Pharisees and scribes knows no bounds. They know full well that according to the law of God himself it is a sin, a transgression, to add to

the word of God or to take away from the word of God. And here they are chastising the disciples of our Messiah... not for disobeying the Torah, not for disobeying the law of Moses, not for disobeying the law of God, but for breaking and disobeying their own traditions. And this is extremely important for us to grasp as modern-day Christians.

The Pharisees and the scribes once again had created their own law. They had essentially created their own Torah by commanding people to obey... them! And this was the law of the land. The law of the land was not God's law at that time. The law of the land had literally become a mixing and mingling of the commandments of men with the commandments of Yehovah. The law of the land was Pharisaical law. And we as modern-day Christians need to sit up and wake up and understand this biblical reality so that we're not led astray.

The apostle Paul was a Pharisee himself. In fact, Paul calls himself a Pharisee among Pharisees. In other words, he was at the top of his class. And this Pharisee who was a Pharisee among Pharisees was previously teaching these exact same things. And this is why the apostle Paul was so adamantly against the law of the land that had become a pharisaical law that had replaced the law of God in the land.

This new pharisaical law that was the law of the land was again a mixing and mingling of the law of God with the law of men and this is exactly why our Messiah called them hypocrites! These Pharisees and these scribes were supposed to be men of God teaching the word of God. But what they were teaching was anything but the word of God. Their own oral traditions had been infused into the law of God and mixed and mingled with God's law and this was the quintessential definition of "sin"! (**scrn 3**)

“Sin” = The Transgression of The Law...

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law:
for sin is the transgression of the law.



And so it was that these Pharisees and these scribes were sinning by adding to the word of God and by taking away from the word of God while proclaiming to be... Men of God!

When the Pharisees and the scribes begin to chastise the disciples of our Messiah because they did not wash their hands when they ate... our Messiah immediately fires back at them and listen closely to what he says in verse three **E4**;

Mat 15:3 He answered them, “**And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?**”

Our Messiah tells these Pharisees and these scribes in verse six that for the sake of their tradition they have made void the word of his Father.

Let me ask you a question my friends... do you know anyone for the sake of their tradition have made void the word of God? Do you know anyone who has added to the word of God and taken away from the word of God? And before you answer that question, I want us all to think about this massive celebration that just took place a couple of weeks ago called “Christ-mass”.

Is “Christ mass” the birthday of our Messiah? And if so, where do you find that in your Bible? And where does the Roman Catholic created pagan toy God St. Nicholas fit into our God breathed Scripture? Is this not adding to... and most certainly taking away from... the word of God?

Where is the first day of the week Sunday Sabbath commanded anywhere within the confines of your God breathed Scripture? Surely this was not added to the word of God was it? Surely you can tell me who commanded us to keep holy the first day of the week Sunday and to call it the Sabbath day.

And what about “Good Friday”? Surely you can tell me where Good Friday is found within the confines of your Bible. Surely you have not added this to God’s word... have you? Our Messiah is called our Passover lamb because he died on Passover day according to all four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all proclaimed that our Messiah died on what was called “preparation day” which was indeed Passover day which is a day that the Jewish people would have been preparing for the feast of unleavened bread which followed immediately after the Passover.

Please tell me that you have not added to the word of God and taken away from the word of God. Please tell me that you are not a hypocrite just as much as these Pharisees and scribes were hypocrites. Please tell me that you are not guilty of honoring our Messiah with your lips while your heart is far from him worshiping him in vain because you are teaching as doctrines the commandments of men!

You see, today’s modern-day professing Christian is no better than the Pharisees and the scribes of our Messiah’s time who do indeed honor him with their lips while their hearts are far from him. And because they honor him with their lips while their hearts are far from him, they do indeed worship him in vain because they are teaching as doctrines... the commandments of men. Adding to and taking away from the word of God is indeed a “sin” my friends and I don’t care how you cut it there is no difference between the traditions of the Pharisees and the scribes and the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and her daughter protestant churches today in our time.

And the hypocrisy continues in verses 10 through 20. How many times have you heard ignorant and unstudied Christians pointing to Matthew chapter 15 in order to prove that all animals are clean food to eat in the eyes of God? Once again,

hypocrisy!

Our Messiah tells us in Matthew chapter 15 verse 11 that it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person but what comes out of the mouth that defiles a person.

The first thing that we need to understand here is what the context of this chapter is all about. What is the context of Matthew chapter 15 all about? The context of Matthew chapter 15 is all about eating with dirty hands, hands that have not been washed according to the Pharisees and the elder's man-made commandment.

Our Messiah is simply telling us that if you eat with dirty hands you don't have to worry about that dirt defiling you because what goes into the mouth is not what defiles a person but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles a person. And so, the dirt that you might eat by eating with dirty hands cannot defile you as the Pharisees are claiming. This is the context my friends. The context of Matthew chapter 15 has nothing to do with eating pigs or crustacean or crabs or filthy animals that eat fish poop off the bottom of the ocean. **E4**

And it was because our Messiah makes this statement in verse 11... that the Pharisees were offended according to verse 12. And our Messiah goes on to speak of these offended Pharisees in the very next verse in verse 13 when he says and I quote, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up."

Our Messiah tells his apostles to leave them alone because they are blind guides and if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit. And Peter himself is still confounded and confused about this parable in verse 15. And our Messiah asks him in verse 16 "Are you also still without understanding?" And this is when our Messiah explains to Peter that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled but that it is what comes out of the mouth that proceeds from the heart and this is what defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, and slander. These are what defile the person. And listen closely to what our Messiah says in Matthew chapter 15 verse 20... "But to eat with unwashed hands... get that my friends... to eat with unwashed hands... does not defile anyone."

Once again, the whole context, the whole premise of this conversation has to do with eating with dirty hands not eating unclean animals. Unclean animals were not even seen as food in our Messiah's day. No one would have been eating pork at that

time my friends. The disciples would not have been sitting down to have a ham sandwich. Even the apostle Paul himself warns the assembly of Corinth to touch no unclean thing! **2nd Corinthians 6:14-18 E5**

The Temple of the Living God

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2Co 6:15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

2Co 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

2Co 6:17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

2Co 6:18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

Once again, we have the apostle Paul teaching the assembly at Corinth to not even touch an unclean thing. The apostle Paul is clearly quoting from the Torah and the writings of the prophets right here in second Corinthians chapter 6 and yet... we have ignorant and unstudied misguided people teaching that Matthew 15 is all about being able to eat unclean animals. And my friends this is once again nothing new. We have seen this exact same wickedness even back in the days of the prophets. **Ezekiel chapter 22 verses 26 through 28 (scrn 4)**

Not Teaching The Difference Between The Clean And The Unclean...

Eze 22:26 Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

Eze 22:27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

Eze 22:28 And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken.



Yehovah our Father in heaven was thoroughly disgusted with the priests of the house of Israel who had once again profaned his name by not teaching the difference between the clean and the unclean that God poured out his indignation upon them and promised to consume them with the Fire of his wrath.

How many times have we said it before my friends? There is nothing new under the sun. What has been, is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. The rabbinical Pharisees of our Messiah's time are alive and well today standing behind our modern day man-made denominational pulpits honoring him with their lips while their hearts are far from him worshiping him in vain because they are again teaching as doctrines... the commandments of men.

In these last days that we are now living in, it is crucial that we understand the truth of what the whole Bible says and just as importantly it is crucial that we understand what the whole Bible does not say. For the world today is full of hypocrisy and wolves in sheep's clothing that have added to and taken away from the word of God time and time and time again in order to create their own man-made denominational empires of men who do nothing but honor our Messiah with their lips while their hearts are far from him. Worshiping him in vain because they are teaching as

doctrines... the commandments of men.

Let us put on the full armor of God in these last days. Let us stand on the rock that is the spoken word of our Father in heaven. Let us follow our Messiah and King let us do as he did and walk as he walked. Let us teach our children and our children's children the difference between the clean and the unclean. Let us shout from the rooftops the truth of our God breathed Scripture that has been written across our hearts and in our minds. Let us not build our houses in the sand my friends. Let us do all that we can to help our friends and our families and our communities to rebuild their houses on the rock just as we have rebuild our houses on the rock.

As our Father in heaven pours out his Spirit upon his people in these last days many more will be coming. And they will not be walking. They will be running towards us because we know the truth. They will want to know what to do and where to turn. They will come to us broken and defeated. They will come to us in tears and on their knees begging for a reprieve from what is to come. And we must be ready. Ready to lift them up, ready to teach, ready to make teachers of them. Ready to equip them for the work of ministry and for the building up of the body of our Messiah and to we can all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and to mature manhood and to the measure of the stature of the fullness of our Messiah so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine and by human cunning and craftiness and deceitful schemes. Speaking the truth in love, let us do all that we can to be ready to expand his soon coming kingdom. Let us prepare ourselves for the remnants return.

And as we close the books for this Sabbath morning... I will do as I always do and once again ask as I always do... that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.