

30 DAYS IN THE BIBLE

Click [here](#) to read Matthew 15

Key Verse – Matthew 15:2–6

The church, as an institution, is old. Part of the beauty of our faith is the rich history of believers and the things their pursuit of God has led them to do. So many positive aspects of culture, philosophy, medicine, science, humanitarian aid, and more can be directly linked to people of faith throughout the centuries. One possible downside to this lengthy history, however, is that we sometimes get caught up doing things, or doing things a certain way, simply because we've "always done it this way." In this passage, Jesus is being confronted by some Pharisees for His apparent lack of respect for Jewish customs and traditions. They felt that since He was allowing His disciples to ignore these customs, He must not care about them either. From the Pharisees' perspective, holding strictly to traditional religious ceremony is the most important thing a Jew must do, so this, to them, is a serious grievance. Rather than addressing the supposed character flaws of His disciples, and by extension, Himself as their teacher, Jesus addressed the Pharisees' flaws.

The Pharisaical order had over time built upon the commandments of God. To combat the Hellenization of Jewish culture by the Greeks and Romans they had set even more rules and restrictions on top of the Law in an effort to both protect their historical customs as well as to stop the Jewish people well short of breaking the Law. This caused all kinds of undue hardship for the Jews, and it also resulted in a lot of contradictions in regulations. Jesus is addressing that in their effort to meet these extended demands, they had been doing things the way they'd always done it, rather than doing things the way God told them to.



What about us? In our efforts to live our lives have we created new standards, new rules, new customs that aren't in line with the Word of God? Do we operate in a way that might appear pious, but actually grieves God? Are we misrepresenting our Lord? Today let's think on two things. First, let's prayerfully examine the way we walk out our faith. Let's ensure we aren't placing our own traditions and habits over the Lord's commands. Secondly, let's remind ourselves that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours, and seek to align our priorities with His, rather than doing our faith our way. Even though we may not always understand His ways, we can trust them, because in all things, He is good.

What Scripture can I meditate on today?

What did God speak to me today?

How can I respond in obedience?

How can I pray?