

Traditions

Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:1-15

According to the Jewish tradition, it is wrong to eat without washing of hands. They followed many traditions like washing their feet when they return home from outside, praying 3 times a day, keeping the Sabbath by not doing any work on that day, observing all festivals according to the instructions they've received, etc. They were bound by many restrictions concerning their religion, caste and the place they lived in. In India, the people who called themselves as high cast would never allow low caste people into their home. Even in some schools they used to have a practice where separate vessels were used to serve the children of high cast people and the children of low caste people. We cannot understand what the benefit of following some traditions is. There are also a few harmful or evil traditions. Jesus said that it is better to obey God rather than following mere human made traditions.

The Jews were allowed to eat food only of a fixed quantity. They will be defiled if they eat without washing their hands. These were their traditional belief. But Jesus said, that which goes into the mount cannot defile us but rather that which comes out of our mouth. We regularly eat food, drink water and juices. We eat and drink what we desire. But, bad words proceed out of our mouths, we speak in a manner that offends others, hateful words, loveless words, lies, false witnesses, murmurings, words that puts down others and many such corrupt communications from our heart comes out of our mouth. This is what God hates. Even people cannot accept such things. This is what causes us to sin. This is what can defile a person. Therefore, we should be very cautious about that which proceeds out of our mouth.

Have you rejected the Lord Jesus Christ by prioritizing traditions? Going to church, praying 3 times a day and such spiritual practices are very good. But these practices should not be done as a mere obligation but rather it should be done because of the love you have for God.

Questions:

1. What are the benefits of keeping up traditions?
2. What will defile us?
3. About what should we be very cautious?