

LESSON 10-23-05

Unwashen Hands

Matthew 15:1-20 – Mk. 7:1-23 – Deut. 21:6 – Ps. 26:6

The hands represent a person's work or life. To wash your hands was not only an act of cleansing; it was an indication of innocence. "My hands are clean". It showed you had no involvement or showed no further interest in an incident. Dirty hands were a representation of a defiled heart. Before eating, the hands were washed for sanitary reasons, but the Pharisees tied a symbolic gesture to a simple act of cleansing to create a tradition.

Now a simple act of washing your hands before eating became a religious act, "Tradition of Men."

Christ was more concerned with the Pharisee's dirty hearts. Dirty hands don't defile a man, a dirty heart does.

LESSONS TO LEARN

1. Man's religious tradition will make of none effect God's commandments. Mk. 7:13 There are a lot of traditions associated with he church, but none are a substitute for knowing Christ personally.
2. It's what goes on in the heart or soul of a man that defiles him, not what goes on in the mouth. Matt. 15:17-20
3. When a person speaks, their heart is revealed. A defiled heart will be known by a man's speech and actions. Matt. 15:18,19
4. Keep your heart washed.
Prov.4:23
Ps. 119:1, 2, 9-11
1 Jn. 1:9
Rm. 10:10