

Blind Guides (Sight Series #5)

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Matthew 15:1-20 ¹Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ²“Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash their hands before they eat.” ³Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God said: ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ ⁵But you say that if anyone says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever you would have received from me is a gift devoted to God,’ ⁶he need not honor his father or mother with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you: ⁸‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. ⁹They worship Me in vain; they teach as doctrine the precepts of men.’ ” ¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹A man is not defiled by what enters his mouth, but by what comes out of it.” ¹²Then the disciples came to Him and said, “Are You aware that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” ¹³But Jesus replied, “Every plant that My heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by its roots. ¹⁴Disregard them! They are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵Peter said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶“Do you still not understand?” Jesus asked. ¹⁷“Do you not yet realize that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then is eliminated? ¹⁸But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a man. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander. ²⁰These are what defile a man, but eating with unwashed hands does not defile him.” (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The religious leaders came to Jesus with a **complaint** about His disciples. V.1-2
- B. Jesus criticized them for their **hypocrisy** regarding God’s law and their religious culture. V.3-7
- C. Jesus quoted from Isaiah regarding their words versus the **condition** of their hearts. V.8-11
- D. Jesus called the religious leaders **blind guides**. V.12-14
- E. Jesus emphasized that the heart is more important than outward **religious** practices. V.15-19

II. How does this affect our spiritual vision?

- A. We must sift through what is our culture and what does Scripture **actually say**?
- B. Beware of teachers using Old Testament passages to **justify** prejudices and “godly” behavior.
- C. If **love** is not the defining characteristic of a teacher, beware of them.

D. We must be willing to examine *our own lives* before we examine others.

Matthew 7:3-5 ³Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but fail to notice the beam in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while there is still a beam in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (BSB)

E. We must seek to have our hearts *pure* before God.