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In this chapter, Matthew Henry wrote: we have Christ's dispute with scribes and Pharisees about eating with unwashed hands, and the needful instruction He gave to the people on that occasion.



1 Then came together to Him / then zealously came together to Jesus,

the Pharisees, and certain of their scribes / those highly educated, religious busybodies,

who came from Jerusalem / they came from denominational headquarters. Matthew Henry said, these busy-bodies walked... 100 miles to fact gather... well, he said, to **fault gather** and pick a fight with our Savior. These are the brightest from... the denomination headquarters.

2 And when they saw some of His disciples / the word is: *mathetes*; those doing the math;

they saw some... eat bread with defiled hands, that is to say, with unwashed hands,

And of course...

they found fault / they always find fault.

And Mark gives further elaboration for those of us... not in the know.

3 For the Pharisees and all the Jewish leaders, except they wash their hands often / frequently, **they do not eat, holding the tradition of the elders.**

4 And when they come from the market, except they wash,

they do not eat / now, why is that? Well, Isaiah informs us... whenever the Pharisees went among the people...any place in public... especially in the marketplaces; that was usually every Monday and Thursday. You know, getting food for the week; and preparing for the Friday Sabbath. It's interesting; that is when the Pharisees would observe: **the fast**... as they paraded those days around the marketplace in their white robes. Do you get the picture? They would quote scripture -- out of context... yet, indicting themselves; not even knowing it. They were that stupid. We read their favorite scripture verse; they would say, *Stand by yourself!* **Come not near me... for I am holier than you.** -- **Isaiah 65.** Read it!

And Mark says, when these separatists...

come from the market, except they wash, they do not eat.

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And many other things there are, which they have received to hold:

the washing of cups,

and *the washing of pots,*

the washing of copper bowls,

and of tables.



And many other things / and these are not God ordained ceremonial commands... such as we read are duties of the Aaronic priests in the first 5 books of scripture. Those duties were all fulfilled in Christ; but this chapter is talking about **traditions of men**.

Dr. Edersheim of Oxford University said: every time they ate, they liked the drama, they liked the attention.

They had 5 different washings: before meal, there was **the beginning** washing... **the first waters**... and then **the second**. And by the way, they had to have a minimum of an eggshell and a half of water... to do each washing. With great care, they washed their hands to their wrists... holding their hands in the air so the water would run down; each time, lifting wet hands above their heads... that the water would run to their elbows. Can you imagine lunchtime at your favorite restaurant? So a lot of goofy stuff going on; and that was before the meal. And then, after meal... there was... **the other**... and **the later**... and **the after waters:** **3 different washings**.

They took special care to wash after they came from the markets, or from the judgment halls, or from wherever people of all sorts gathered. They loved the appearance of righteousness. And like a cancerous growth, these traditions morphed out of control... as they despised the people they came in contact with... who were not like them. **What church is this?**

Verse ⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him,

Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? / why do they not follow our elders... saintly that they were. Notice Mark did **not** write: according to the traditions of the fathers – in the church of the Lord there is only one Father and He is in heaven.

They asked Jesus, **Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders?** / they wanted to say: as WE do!

but eat bread with unwashed / defiled... **hands?** / Oh! Aw!! In other words: Jesus, your disciples... those following you... are filthy.

⁶ He answered and said to them / those who had walked... 100, WALKED 100 miles from denomination headquarters,

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He... said to them, Well has Isaiah prophesied of you...

you hypocrites / you two-faced hypocrites; concealing what is; while pretending what is not,

Well has Isaiah prophesied of you... as it is written,

This people honors Me with their lips / they give God lots of lip service,

but their heart is far from Me / really, worshiping Me... is the furthest thing from their mind.

⁷ Howbeit they worship Me in vain,

teaching for doctrines the commandments of men / their instruction... is man's invention. And these traditions of men are found in every denomination... in every institution... be they Nazis or Fascists... paper or plastic... global warmers... and green... Y2K... oh?! Or anyone else. They're all hypocrites; gimmick inventors. None of it needed... at least in the Church Christ is building.

Hear it again...

Verse⁷ Howbeit they worship Me in vain,

teaching for doctrines the commandments of men / what church is this?

⁸ laying aside the commandment of God / letting go; pushing aside... God's command,

while holding on to the tradition of men,

as the washing of pots and cups / in other words: as if washing pots and cups was important... at least more important than God's word:

And to these religious showoffs... Jesus says,

for such things you like to do / don't you? And again, Matthew Henry says, Superstition is an endless thing. You open the door for one... and a troop, an army will march in. And ain't that the truth. From the basilicas of Europe... to the glass cathedrals of the goofy West...we find edifices and institutions... spouting man's worthless traditions... and possibilities. Where is Christ Jesus in all this? There are churches in L.A. that say, **don't use the name Jesus anymore**. They claim to be Christian churches... stupid asses! Thank God, He is coming soon!

Jesus continues...

⁹ He said to them, Full well you reject / you annul; you reduce to nothing; and value as worthless;

the commandment of God / simply loving God. They are too busy loving their own performance,

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that you keep / the word is: *tereo*; it means: **guard to protect**. Jesus, the night He was betrayed and He went out and gave His life for the world... He used this word 12 times... that night when He told His disciples: *Keep My words*. But will the Pharisees do that? No! They want to keep their words: they want to keep their ways. Mark writing for Peter uses this word once in the gospel: **here!** Right now! So, Peter remembers when Jesus said -- in condemnation of these Pharisees...

that you keep your own tradition / your own counsels; your own paper bulls. And I have to agree: it all is bull!

Verse¹⁰ For Moses said, Honor your father and your mother;

and he said, Whoever curses father or mother,

let him die the death / let him die a miserable death.

¹¹ But you say, If a man says to his father or mother... by whatever you might have benefited by me,

It is Corban,

And in case we don't know what that is, Mark says...

that is to say, it is a gift / a gift to God... sorry! More clearly: If you think I'm going to help you, sorry! Think again; I already committed my gift to God.

¹² And you hypocrites... do not say that he ought to do more for his father or his mother;

¹³ Making the word of God / God's word... what God said – and He said: honor your father and mother:

Making the word of God of no effect / those birdbrains were cancelling the word of God...

through your tradition / perhaps, your favorite minimart chocolate... Easter egg and Easter bunny hunt traditions. If I have to choose between Easter bunny and Playboy bunny, it ain't going to be the chocolate!

Notice, the Lord Jesus doesn't even identify a particular tradition,

But He adds...

making the word of God... of none effect...

through your tradition / your counsels; your papal bulls. And again, it all is bull, isn't it?!

which you hypocrites... have delivered:

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and many such things you do / and there is no time for Jesus to mention them all. So, having verbally pushed back... against these fact-finding fools... while leveling their arguments... look, what Jesus does:

Verse 14 And when He had called all the people to Him / He gathers the multitude around Him; tons of common folk who heard Him gladly. Like a gang of Jesus people... intimidating the religious fools... just by their presence,

He said to them,

Hearken to Me / hear what I say,

every one of you, and understand:

15 There is nothing / not a thing! **from outside a man,**

that entering into him can defile him / what? Nothing?!

Now, that is not hard to understand. That put a smile on every one of their faces. Eating... or not eating... fish or filet mignon... with a good chardonnay on Fridays... or any other day!

there is nothing... from outside a man,

that entering into him can defile him / does anyone want to argue with Jesus?

but the things which come out of him,

those are what defile the man / does anyone want to correct Jesus? No wonder the night Jesus was betrayed, He repeatedly told His disciples: **Keep My words**. Guard them with your life.

Jesus said...

16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.

If you have ears... use them.



This is My Father's World | **Salvation is Your Name** | **JESUS, it is YOU**

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