

THE TRUTH AMONG TRADITIONS

1. Text: Mark 2:13-17
2. From the text through verse 28 are three incidents where our Lord deals with serious religious problems: First, man's traditions versus God's Word; second, adding to the Word and thus perverting it; thirdly, man's natural tendency to move from the simple to complex and again perverting truth.
3. This passage has a vital lesson on freeing God's will from the crust of man's traditions to see its power and simplicity. They deal with:

I. **Meeting Human Need (Verses 13-17)**

1. Incident: Levi called by Christ and then honors Him with feast (Luke 5:29) and many publicans and sinners there.
2. Question: Why did Jesus eat with these folks? Oral traditions forbade any hospitality with them. So they were blinded to human need Christ easily saw. No sensitivity to lost, complete separation, no difference in sinner and sin.
3. Christ's response: Saw need, associated with them, helped them as a physician would the sick (not as fellow party goers), called to repentance.
4. Issue here: setting up a system that loses its focal point: doing God's will and caring for others. We need to remember this can always happen.
5. Luke 10:31-32 the priest and Levite.
6. Matthew 5:15 Don't put your light under a basket, but on a stand.

II. **Finding True Joy (Verses 18-22)**

1. Issue: Why didn't Christ's disciples fast? Should they? Actual law of Moses said fast once a year; Human traditionalists added two days a week (Monday and Thursday from 6 to 6)
2. Answer: tied to first century context. After wedding, couple stayed at home for week or so and feasted with friends in joyous celebration. Time of happiness, not fasting.
3. Two illustrations: trying to put new cloth with old garment (verse 21); putting new wine in old wineskins (verse 22). Point: old and new were incompatible. Christ's way seen as feasting and new.
4. Discipleship should be a joy, but what takes that away? Attempting to join old and new: old practices, principles or values, people. Old doctrines often must be discarded.
5. Danger in church: binding old opinions, traditions, legalism where God has not bound.

III. **Knowing The Word Of God (Verses 23-28)**

1. Incident: As Christ and disciples went through grainfield, the disciples plucked some heads of grain to eat. It was on a Sabbath.
2. Problem: Work was forbidden on Sabbath (Exodus 20:10) Great for rest and religion. But scribes were not satisfied; they established 39 headings for defining work and one was reaping. So disciples by their plucking were sinning, Christ's critics said.
3. His answer: You don't know your Bibles! "Have you never read?" I Samuel 21:1-6. He uses the example of David taking showbread from house of God and eating it. It was unlawful for David to do it but he saw as an emergency.
4. Matthew 22:29 You err, not knowing the Scriptures. Acts 13:27 Prophets read every Sabbath but Christ missed.
5. Traditions often added because people don't know Word. Religious world full of these.

Conclusion:

