



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

**The King heals the blind!**

**Matthew 15:1-20**

Message #41 of 80 – S1072

**Sermon given on November 19, 2023**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The King heals the blind!**

***Matthew 15:1-20***

## **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 15**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## **Teaching**

- **The King heals the blind!**
- Chapter fourteen was filled with amazing displays of Christ's deity and power.
- It began with Him going to a deserted place to be alone.
- The multitudes show up and rather than taking time alone with the Father, Jesus spends the day healing them of every sickness.
- Near the end of the day the disciples suggest that Jesus send them away so that they can get food.
- Instead, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish and miraculously multiplies them and feeds five thousand men plus women and children.
- Jesus sends the disciples out in a boat and goes up on the mountain to pray.
- A storm comes up and the disciples are struggling all night and getting nowhere.
- Jesus comes walking up on the waves and freaks them out.
- Then we are told about Peter walking, sinking, and walking on water.
- Then the boat miraculously gets to the shore.
- Once there, the multitudes recognize Him and bring all their sick people to be healed.
- Chapter 15 opens with some blind men coming to be Jesus, but not to be healed.
- You see, they don't know they are blind.
- **Matthew 15:1-2**
- Jesus will later refer to these guys as 'blind leaders' or guides.

- They are not physically blind – they are spiritually blind.
- We all have blind spots in our life.
- These are things we just can't see, often because we don't know to look for them.
- All of us have spiritual blind spots.
- Blind spots can come from lack of experience, your own personality, lack of knowledge or faith.
- Spiritual blind spots obscure truth and God's will.
- '...do not wash...' – This is not saying that the disciples ate their meals with filthy hands.
- This was referring to a ritual purification the religious Jews practiced prior to every meal.
- The problem that Jesus has with it is that it is not found anywhere in the Scriptures.
- The closest example is the purification of the priests before they perform service in the Temple.
- The ritual of hand washing was part of an elaborate system of purification.
- It was born out of the truth that God is holy and to worship Him a person must be ritually cleansed.
- The Law of Moses detailed the things that made someone ritually defiled and included instructions on how to remove that defilement.
- Over the centuries, traditions were added that, on the surface, helped them to purify their worship of God.
- In the minds of the scribes and Pharisees, the disciples were disobeying the traditions of the fathers and therefore were offending God.
- **Matthew 15:3-6**
- This is the tradition of Corban.
- While you were alive, you could pledge some or all of your wealth or possessions be given to God when you die.
- That sounds spiritual. The problem is that if someone didn't want to help their parents, they could simply claim Corban and then they weren't allowed to help their parents.

- Of course, they could continue to use the wealth selfishly for themselves until they died.
- It was a very wicked way to treat one's parents that was an accepted practice based on the oral traditions of their ancestors.
- This is one of the problems with the kind of religion many people practice in the world – with enough time and energy, you can justify every wicked thing you want to do.
- Great evils have been done in the name of God by people who have replaced God's Word with man's traditions.
- October 7, 2023, in Israel is an example of that.
- Jesus is telling them that the tradition of Corban violated God's law of love.
- Trusting in unscriptural traditions always hurts people.
- Only someone spiritually blind would practice such a thing and teach others to do it also.
- Jesus is not anti-tradition.
- He is simply opposed to traditions that break or ignore God's commands. Humans naturally develop traditions – it is just how human culture works.
- They can be good and useful, but only to the degree that they agree with God's commands.
- Traditions in themselves are not evil; it is our dogmatic adherence to tradition at the expense of truth that is evil and wicked.
- Every church has traditions. CCFV has many traditions.
- We sing five praise and worship songs at the beginning of the service.
- We take the offering between worship and the message.
- We partake in the Lord's Supper, Communion, on the second Sunday of the month.
- Jesus is not gentle in His response to the blindness of the scribes and Pharisees.
- **Matthew 15:7-9**
- Their hearts are not right, and Jesus knows that.
- He then turns to the multitudes and corrects their wrong doctrine.
- **Matthew 15:10-11**

- The scribes and Pharisees taught that unwashed hands made everything you ate defiled and therefore made you spiritually unclean and unable to worship God.
- The problem is not what goes into your body but what comes out of your mouth.
- The disciples come and tell Jesus something He needs to know – lol!
- **Matthew 15:12-14**
- This is strong language from the Prince of Peace.
- Those who put their religion over the commands of Scripture are to be avoided and ignored.
- Leave them alone. Trust God to deal with them in His timing.
- ‘blind’ = those who are not able to understand because they are unwilling to yield their will to God.
- They are leading people who are also unwilling to respond to God.
- Then Peter speaks up for the group.

- **Matthew 15:15-20**

- Whatever is in your heart will come out in your speech and actions.
- It must come out, because it is who you are.
- You might be able to hide it for a while but eventually everything that is in your heart will come out for the world to see (**Matthew 12:34b-35**).

**For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.**

- King Solomon exhorted God’s people to guard their heart (**Proverbs 4:23**).

**Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.**

- The scribes and Pharisees had a vision problem – they were spiritually blind.
- It was not because they couldn’t see – they were unwilling to see.
- They had a heart problem.
- Spiritual blindness is a heart problem.
- How do we keep our heart pure? How do we deal with our own spiritual blind spots.

- Let me give you a few things and then the worship team will come up for one last praise song.

- First - **Ask God to give you His heart (Psalm 51:10).**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

- That is not something you can do on your own or by practicing religious rituals.

- You must surrender your heart to God and let Him change it.

- Second - **Fill your heart with God's Word (Psalm 119:11).**

**Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.**

- The more of God's Word you fill your heart and mind with the easier it is to see spiritual things the way God sees them.

- Third - **Ask God to reveal anything that might have a wrong place in your heart (Psalm 139:23-24).**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; <sup>24</sup> and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

- Trust God with every part of your heart.
- One of the traditions in the church is three-point sermons. With that in mind, here is my fourth point.

- Fourth - **Open your heart to others.**

- Because we all have blind spots, we will need help seeing the things we are blind to.

- The New Testament has many 'one another' verses like 'love one another.

- One of the ways we do that is by letting people in and letting them help us to see our blind spots (**James 5:16**).

**Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.**

- The scribes and Pharisees were spiritually blind.
- Standing in front of them was the power of God to open their eyes, but to be healed they had to reach out in faith and touch the hem of His garment.
- We all have blind spots. One of the problems with blind spots – we can't see them.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to heal us of any spiritual blindness we might have. **Pray**
- Worship Team comes up to play the last song!