Tradition vs. Scripture
Mark 7: 1-13

October 25, 2026



Verse 1

Tradition is threatened – send for the big wigs

Legalism does not, cannot, control or change behavior, why?

Legalism does not change the real problem – the human heart!

The things Jesus is doing has reached Jerusalem, the legalists headquarters

Big wigs, the power brokers in Judaism, are coming to investigate Jesus

Verse 2 - 5

Tradition: The disciples did not wash their hands

The disciples are breaking man-made rules and the Pharisees don't like it and won't tolerate it

The Pharisees became judge and jury over the most minor infraction of their rules

LESSON: The Pharisees do not make up the rules, God does; God is a God of order

God has given us His commandments to live by

We are no longer under the Mosaic Law, we are under the Law of Christ

Mosaic Law – we think of the 10 commandments; there were 613 laws given on Mt. Sinai

The Law of Christ summed up the Mosaic Law – **Matthew 22: 36-39**

Jesus' summation:

Love God above all and love people

God's love – *"agape"* - is self-sacrificing, unconditional love; not based on being loved in return

This is not natural; I call this *MIRACLE* love!

Agape speaks the truth; agape prioritizes what is best for someone, even at personal cost

FACT: One cannot love people rightly if they do not love God first – 1 John 4: 19 NLT

"We love each other because He loved us first."

Verse 6 - 9

Tradition: Jesus faced the hypocrites head on

To the naked eye, these guys were super religious, super righteous

There was an outward show

Hear Jesus – Matthew 6: 5

"They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of streets, that they may be seen by men."

They did all of this to be seen by men; men pleasers, not God pleasers!

***"Their heart is far from Me."* – verse 6b**

Folks, it is not about the external show, but the inward heart!

Does your heart readily say, *"not my will God, but Your will God"*?

One can sound religious, use God talk, wear religious symbols, but their heart is far from God

***"In vain they worship Me"* – verse 7**

Verse 10 - 13

Tradition: Pharisees break what God says to fit their lifestyle

God is serious about children honoring their father and their mother *(5th commandment)*

The Pharisees weaseled out of their responsibility by claiming Corban

Corban = means given to God, given to the temple

This was a convenient Pharisee tradition to allow them to keep the money and not care for their parents

Closing:

Tradition vs. Scripture

God's instruction to His people is clear – *do not add to His Word!*

Proverbs 30: 5-6

Deuteronomy 4: 2

1 Corinthians 4: 6

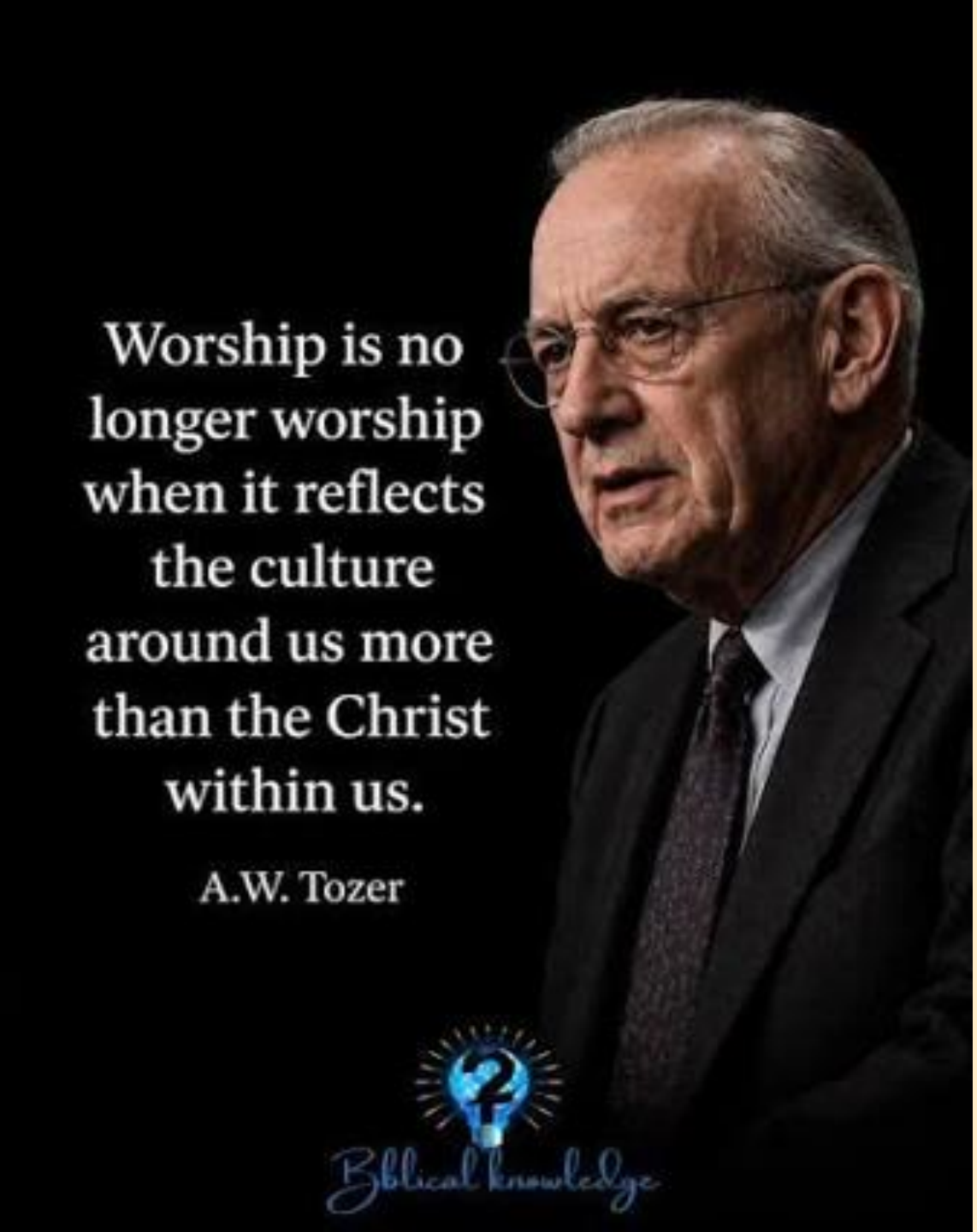
Traditions of men are being embraced by more and more so-called Christians today

What is Jesus looking for in His people?

Those who worship Him in spirit and truth – John 4: 23-24

Worship the Father in spirit and truth = a heart loyal to God, His Word, His people and His precepts

Worshipping God in truth is a big deal to God!



WORSHIP

FOR THE CHRISTIAN, EVERYTHING BEGINS AND ENDS WITH WORSHIP. WHATEVER INTERFERES WITH ONE'S PERSONAL WORSHIP OF GOD NEEDS TO BE PROPERLY DEALT WITH AND DISMISSED. KEEP IN MIND THAT ABOVE ALL ELSE, WORSHIP IS AN ATTITUDE, A STATE OF MIND AND A SUSTAINED ACT. IT IS NOT A PHYSICAL ATTITUDE, BUT AN INWARD ACT OF THE HEART TOWARD GOD.

A.W. TOZER

The Christian world today is running to tradition and abandoning fidelity to the Word of God and the God of the Word!

This is to be expected as we grow closer to the end of the age; *deception will abound and it is!*

Believers are deconstructing their faith, falling for deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons – 1 Timothy 4: 1

This is not a time to fall into the trap of Church TRADITIONS of our time

This is a time to stay loyal to Jesus and His Word!

Give them the God of the Word to keep them from the gods of this world!

JESUS ANSWERED, "IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORD. MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH HIM.

JOHN 14:23

TRADITION or SCRIPTURE

What say you?