

**Matthew 15:1-20**

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|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| v1 – Pharisees           | (proper noun) | members of a Jewish religious sect who emphasised strict obedience to the law and to tradition.  |
| v1 – teachers of the law | (proper noun) | also known as scribes. Teachers of the law were people in the first century whose job it was to make copies of God’s law and to teach it to God’s people, the Jews. The elders, chief priests and teachers of the law formed the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council) at the time of Jesus. |
| v1 – Jerusalem           | (proper noun) | the capital of Israel  |
| v2 – disciples           | (noun)        | followers of Jesus who lived and travelled with him and learned from him   |
| v2 – traditions          | (noun)        | customs or practices that have existed for a long time   |
| v3 – command             | (noun)        | an instruction that must be obeyed   |
| v3 – for the sake of     | (phrase)      | for the benefit of   |
| v4 – curses              | (verb)        | calls on God to harm someone   |
| v5 – devoted             | (adjective)   | set apart for a particular use   |
| v6 – nullify             | (verb)        | cancel out; make something to have no effect   |
| v7 – hypocrites          | (noun)        | people who pretend to be one thing to others, but are really something else  |
| v7 – Isaiah              | (proper noun) | a prophet from the 8 <sup>th</sup> century BC  |
| v7 – prophesied          | (verb)        | received a message from God and passed it on to God’s people   |
| v8 – with their lips     | (expression)  | with their words   |
| v9 – in vain             | (phrase)      | unsuccessfully   |
| v11 – unclean            | (adjective)   | ceremonially unclean; unacceptable to God  |
| v12 – offended           | (adjective)   | angry and upset because you think you have been insulted   |
| v13 – roots              | (noun)        | the part of a plant that is under the ground   |



|                         |             |   |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| v14 – blind             | (adjective) | unable to see   |
| v14 – pit               | (noun)      | a deep hole in the ground   |
| v15 – parable           | (noun)      | a story from everyday life that also has a deeper spiritual meaning     |
| v16 – dull              | (adjective) | slow to understand  |
| v19 – evil              | (adjective) | against God   |
| v19 – adultery          | (noun)      | having sex with someone who is not your husband/wife                    |
| v19 – sexual immorality | (noun)      | any use of sex outside of marriage                                      |
| v19 – theft             | (noun)      | the crime of stealing   |
| v19 – false testimony   | (noun)      | telling lies when you give a formal statement about a situation you saw |
| v19 – slander           | (noun)      | telling lies about someone to ruin their reputation                     |

**Matthew 15:1-20 (New International Reader's Version)**

<sup>1</sup>Some Pharisees and some teachers of the law came from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked, <sup>2</sup>"Why don't your disciples obey what the elders teach? Your disciples don't wash their hands before they eat!"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, "And why don't you obey God's command? You would rather follow your own teachings! <sup>4</sup>God said, 'Honor your father and mother.' He also said, 'Anyone who asks for bad things to happen to their father or mother must be put to death.' <sup>5</sup>But suppose people have something that might be used to help their parents. You allow them to say it is instead 'a gift set apart for God.' <sup>6</sup>So they do not need to honor their father or mother with their gift. You make the word of God useless in order to follow your own teachings. <sup>7</sup>You pretenders! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you. He said,

<sup>8</sup>" 'These people honor me by what they say.  
But their hearts are far away from me.

<sup>9</sup>Their worship doesn't mean anything to me.  
They teach nothing but human rules.' "

<sup>10</sup>Jesus called the crowd to him. He said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup>What goes into someone's mouth does not make them 'unclean.' It's what comes out of their mouth that makes them 'unclean.' "

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came to him. They asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were angry when they heard this?"

<sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, "They are plants that my Father in heaven has not planted. They will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup>Leave the Pharisees. They are blind guides. If one blind person leads another blind person, both of them will fall into a pit."

<sup>15</sup>Peter said, "Explain this to us."

<sup>16</sup>"Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup>"Don't you see? Everything that enters the mouth goes into the stomach. Then it goes out of the body. <sup>18</sup>But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart. Those are the things that make someone 'unclean.' <sup>19</sup>Evil thoughts come out of a person's heart. So do murder, adultery, and other sexual sins. And so do stealing, false witness, and telling lies about others. <sup>20</sup>Those are the things that make you 'unclean.' But eating without washing your hands does not make you 'unclean.' "