

The Dangers of Traditions

Mark 2: 23-28

Mark 7:1-13



Introduction To Traditions

Jewish traditions often caused Jesus problems while teaching.

Mark 2:23-28

Mark 7:1-13



- **Discussion Points**
 - Traditions?
 - Right or Wrong?
 - Dangers?



Meaning of Tradition

Tradition (Paradosis), “Handed Down”

- **As Understood by Jews**

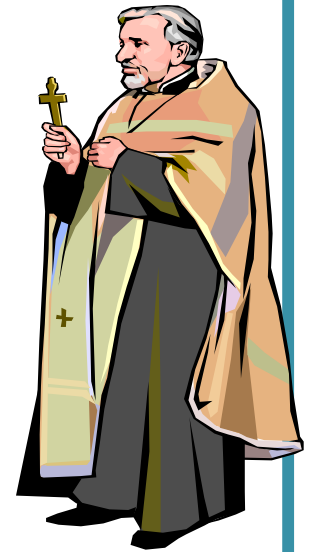
1. Laws given by Moses, both oral & written
2. Decisions made by judges over the law.
3. Opinions of “esteemed rabbis”, along with the Old Testament scripture & customs.

Note: Paul strongly supported Jewish tradition, prior to his conversion, Galatians 1:13-14



Meaning of Traditions

- **As Understood by Catholics**
 - Views similar to the Jews
 - Traditions practiced by Jesus & Apostles
 - Various council's decrees, over the years
 - Various church leaders' decrees (Popes)



Note 1: Traditions are theological teachings and should be received as God's word.
(The Catholic Dictionary)

Note 2: Traditions have equal authority with the Bible. (Catholic Catechism for Adults)

Meaning of Traditions

As Found in Scripture

- **Word “Tradition” not found in O.T.**
- **Word “Tradition” found 13 times in N.T.**
 - **3 references to the apostle’s teachings**
 - **1 Corinthians 11:2**
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:15**
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:6**
 - **10 references to traditions of men**
 - **Mark 2:23-28; Mark 7:1-13, Galatians 1:13-14; Colossians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:18, etc.**



Traditions, Right or Wrong?

Jesus Was Not Bound by Traditions

- **Some traditions he did observe**
 - Attended a wedding feast, **John 2:1-2**
 - Attended a Feast of Dedication, **John 10:22-23**
- **Some traditions he did not observe**
 - Picking grain on the Sabbath, **Mark 2:23-25**
 - Eating with unwashed hands, **Mark 7:1-4**
- **He was bound only by the authority of:**
 - The Mosaical Law & His authority as God's Son



Dangers of Traditions

- **Following traditions of men ???**
 - **Mark 7:5-7, “*Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?...This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*”**



Dangers of Traditions

- ***Vain worship, is “empty” and “worthless”***
- **Colossians 2:21-23, “...if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations? ‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle’, which all concern things which perish with using, according to the doctrines and commandments of men. These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”**



Dangers of Traditions

- **Makes the Word of God Void**
 - **Example of honoring parents, Mark 7:10-13**
 - Elder's traditions free from obeying parents
 - Rendered God's word of no effect
 - **Traditions of men, same effect today**
 - Choosing not to baptize for remission of Sins
 - Choosing not to take the Lord's supper
 - Choosing not to sing without instruments
 - Choosing not to follow all of God's Law



Mark 7: 8-9, 13



BEWARE **of the Dangers** **of Traditions**



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Mark 7:1-13

