

The Life of the Apostle Peter

Study # 9

The Statements of Peter Part IV: His Curiosity

I. About Food (Defilement) (Matthew 15:10-20)

A. The Statement of Jesus (10-11; James 1:27; Rev. 3:4; 21:27)

B. The Straightforwardness of Jesus (12-20)

1. Toward the Pharisees (12-14)

2. Toward Peter (15-20)

a. The Inquiry (15; Heb. 5:10-14; Acts 10:14; Gal. 2:11-12)

b. The Instruction (16-20)

1) His Admonition (16)

2) His Amplification (17-20)

It is not the Unwashed HANDS that defile!

It is the Unregenerated HEART that defiles!

II. About Faith (Luke 12:41-48)

CONTEXT: (Cf. 12:28, 37-40)

A. An Inquiry (41)

1. The Purpose for His Inquiry

2. The Principle in His Inquiry

B. An Illustration (42-48)

III. About Forsaking (Matthew 19:23-30)

A. The Rich (23-26)

B. The Request (27)

1. The Truth of the Question

2. The Timing of the Question

C. The Reward

1. Ministering With Christ (28)

a. The Requirement

b. The Ruling

2. Multiplied By Christ (29-30)

a. The Requirement (29)

1) What They Did

2) Why They Did It

b. The Result (29B, Rev. 22:12)

c. The Re-Ordering (30)

CONCLUSION:

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Rev. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Acts 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Galatians 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. [12] For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Rev. 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

On Traditions and True Worship (Matthew 15:3)

An ancient rabbi said, "There are ten parts of hypocrisy in the world, nine at Jerusalem and one everywhere else." The same might be said of much of the church. Satan has no greater allies than hypocrites who go under the guise of God's people. And hypocrites have no greater ally than tradition, because tradition can be followed mechanically and thoughtlessly, without conviction, sincerity, or purity of heart. Because traditions are made by men, they can be accomplished by men. They require no faith, no trust, no dependence on God. Not only that, but they appeal to the flesh by feeding pride and self-righteousness. Often, as in this case, they also serve self-interest.

Because traditions require no integrity of heart, they are easily substituted for true worship and obedience. That is why it is easy for people to honor God with their lips while their heart is far away from Him. And that is why ritual, ceremony, and other religious traditions are more likely to take worshipers further from God than bring them closer. And the further a person is from God, the more vain his worship becomes. —MacArthur New Testament Commentary