Chesterfield Presbyterian Church

November 15, 2026- Hugh Barlett

Matthew 15:1–20 *Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, [2] "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." [3] He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? [4] For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' [5] But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," [6] he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. [7] You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: [8] " 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; [9] in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' " [10] And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: [11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." [12] Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" [13] He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. [14] Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." [15] But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." [16] And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? [17] Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? [18] But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. [19] For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. [20] These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."*

- Christ turns piety inside out
- Truth should overrule tradition
- Our heart is the heart of the matter
- Grace grows from the inside out

Jesus says that the traditions of the faith should submit themselves to the truth of God's word? What traditions can sometimes distract from faithfulness to God's word?

Why is it hard to see traditions in the right light?

Why is hypocrisy so common? Why is it so dangerous to the church?

Why is it harder to focus on the heart of devotion rather than the external rituals?

If the heart is the heart of the matter- then how do we change our heart? (little bit of trick question)

How does God change our hearts?

Titus 3:3–7: *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. [4] But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

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Nov 8th, 2026- Rev Hugh Barlett

Matthew 14:22–33 *Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. [23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. [25] And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." [28] And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

Who can walk on water? Only The Son of God

- Christ devoted in worship
- Christ shows us His divinity
- Christ shares with us His divine power
- Christ saves us as we struggle
- Christ draws us to worship

In the gospel, Jesus takes time to pray all by himself! What does this teach us about prayer or our lives?

Jesus demonstrates that He is the One and Only divine Lord. How did that sink in for the disciples? Why was that so hard to believe?

How does Jesus inviting Peter to walk on water provide us with a picture of how God empowers to rule over the "waters of chaos and evil" in our own life? How is this a fulfillment of God's original purpose for Adam & Eve to rule over the earth?

When Peter sinks, what does this teach us?

When Jesus reaches out and saves him as he is sinking, what does teach us?

This the first instance in the gospel of the disciples worshipping Jesus. How do we worship Jesus? What spiritual disposition is required to worship Jesus?