

Jesus and Tradition



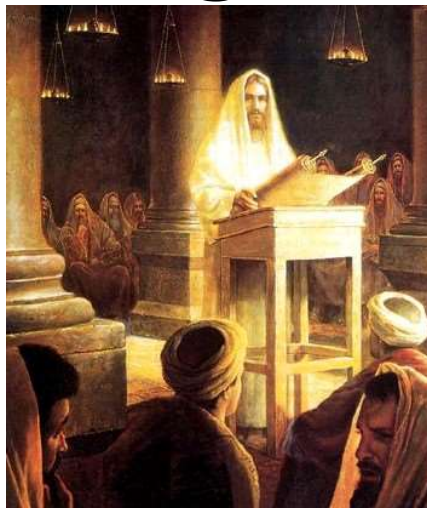
Matthew 15:1-20

five topics in this series

- **How to Study the Bible**
- **Purposes of the Assembly**
- **First century culture's impact on Christian tradition**
- **Our historical tradition of leaders: Campbells, Stone, Scott**
- **Relationship between traditions and faith**

process of exploring traditions of faith

- many blessings and benefits
- responsible cautions
- identifiable dangers if we do not



Definition of “Tradition”

- **PARADISIS (Greek—παράδοσις),**
- **Uniformly translated “tradition”**
- **A long-established custom or belief that has been passed on from one generation to another**



Tradition in “theology”

- A doctrine believed to have divine authority though not in the Scriptures.
- 2.1 *noun* (*in Christianity*) doctrine not explicit in the Bible but held to derive from the oral teaching of Christ and the Apostles.
- 2.2 (*in Judaism*) an ordinance of the oral law not in the Torah but held to have been given by God to Moses.
- 2.3 (*in Islam*) a saying or act ascribed to the Prophet but not recorded in the Koran.

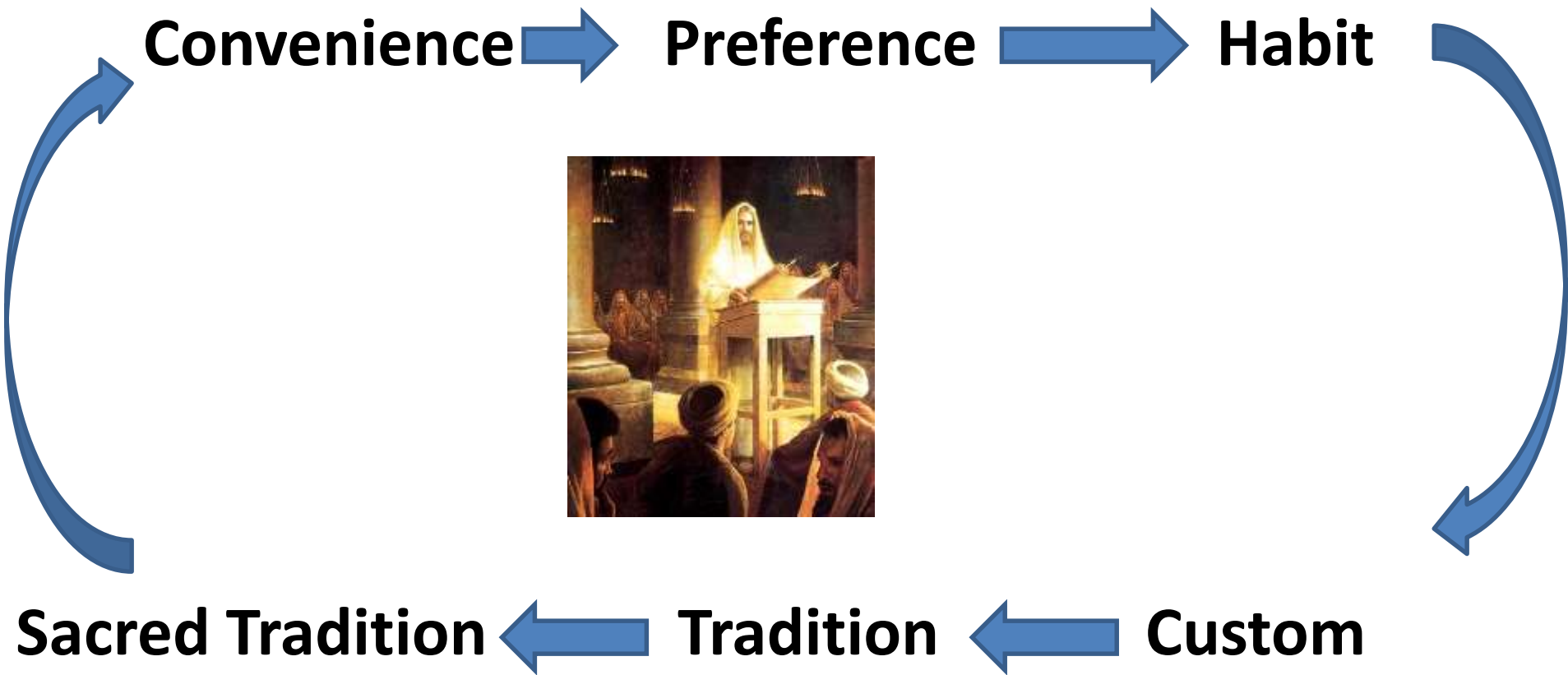
Matthew 15 Observations

- **Ritual purity**
- **Break the commandment of God**
- **Nullify the word of God**



Necessary Traditions			New Traditions
Practice	Method	Tradition	Changed?
Baptism	Immersion Sprinkling	By only a preacher	Priesthood of all believers
Scripture	Lectio Continua & church	Ordained pastor or priest	Translated and read by all believers
Communion	Intinction, representa tively	Ordained priests or pastors	President at the table, then deacons, then others (men and women)
Singing	Chant, a cappella	Cantors, and monks	Leader, then shaped notes for songbooks
Preaching	homily	Eucharistic centered	Pulpit proclamation-- Reformation
Conversion	Spiritual Exercises	Sought as proof of salvation—	Biblical response of faith, reason, and choice – Restoration Movement

Figure 1: Path of a Tradition



Radical Happenings in the midst of tradition!



- **Luke 4—as was his custom**
- **Matt 21:12—money changers!**
- **200 year tradition of communion preparation preaching lead to the second great awakening, and the roots of the Restoration Movement**

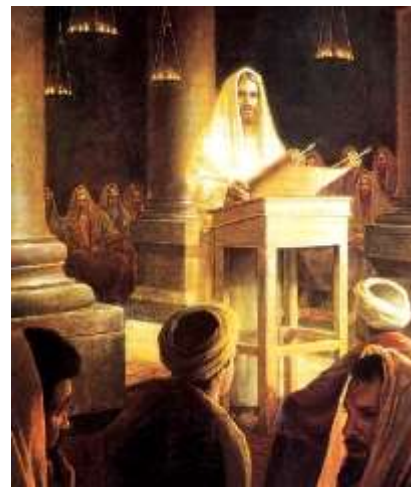
Our Own sacred traditions worth keeping!

Florida State University--outsider

- **High view of Scripture**
- **High view of baptism**
- **Priesthood of all believers**
- **Freedom of inquiry**
- **Christian unity emphasis**



Conclusion



There are many blessings and benefits from exploring our traditions of faith

- Responsible cautions in this exploration
- Identifiable dangers if we do not
- What was Jesus' attitude and practice?
- How can our traditions break the commandments of God and nullify His word?

Your Feedback

- **What traditions are important to me and why?**
- **What traditions am I willing to make way for new ones?**

