

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 07/07/13

Matthew 15.1-20

Focus: to help us honor God's Word above all things and to focus on the attitudes of our hearts, not merely our actions as the source of our defilement or our righteousness.

- Read verses 1-9. Why was this hand washing such a big deal to the Pharisees? What did it represent to them? What might be modern day equivalents for us?
- What was Jesus so upset with the Pharisees about? How might you be vulnerable to the same twisted perspective where the traditions of men matter more than the words of God?
- Read verse 10-20. Share what you know about the Pharisees. How did men who so loved and revered God's Law come to this place of being blind guides? How might that same snare be laid for you?
- What was Jesus teaching his disciples about sin and righteousness in this section? Do you think that this kind of "moralism" is a problem for church folks today? How do we guard against that?
- see if you can recall the 4 bad deals from the sermon. Is there one that you might be particularly vulnerable to?