

# Jonestown Bible Church

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**“For God said, “Honor your father and mother,” and, “He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.” But you (Pharisees) say, “Whoever shall say to his father or mother, “Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God, he is not to honor his father or mother”, and thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.” Matthew 15:4-6**

May 6, 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In 1907 Anna Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the second Sunday of May. By the next year Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia. Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessman, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the second Sunday of May. He established the day as a time for *public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country*.

This Sunday we continue this tradition. We have many wonderful *traditions* in our nation which we celebrate and commemorative. Jesus though was confronted with the matter of *religious traditions* that were held by Jews. In Matthew 15, we read of such an account. In Matthew 15:1-9, The Pharisees rebuked Jesus for letting His disciples eat without ceremonially washing their hands which was the “traditions of the fathers.” These were religious rules and regulations created by men. Paul, at one time—in his zeal for Judaism—felt very obligated to keep all of them. But having been set free in Christ, he made a careful distinction between the traditions that have their basis in the clear teaching of God's word, and those that originated from the imaginations of men and that had no real authority. He warned the Colossian believers; *Therefore, 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, to not taste, to not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines 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,”* Colossians 2:20-23.

The Pharisees and scribes had asked Jesus a question: *Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?* However the Lord Jesus answered their question by asking a question of them in verse 3, *He answered and said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?* You see; the Jewish leaders had a *tradition* that taught that if someone pledged money or other material resources to the temple for the service of God, then the money had to be turned over to the temple upon their death and could not be given to anyone else. The person who made the pledge could still use the money while living; but they were forbidden from giving it to anyone else, because it was now *Corban*—that is, a gift set apart for God.

This tradition was held to so strongly that, even if a man made a vow and found out later that his aging mother and father were in financial need, he was forbidden by this rabbinical law from giving anything to them (see Mark 7:11-12). It had the appearance of being an act of great devotion to God. But Jesus demonstrates to them how sinful their *religious tradition* had, in actuality, become—a tradition that had caused them to transgress the clear commandments of God. By this they dishonored their father and mother.

Jesus first told them, *For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother* (v. 4)—quoting the fifth commandment (see Exodus 20:12; Deut. 5:16). And then, He added the Scripture's warning about the punishment prescribed by the law for the breaking the fifth commandment; *. . . and He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death*, Exodus 21:17; see also Deuteronomy 27:16; Proverbs 20:20; 30:7. These are words that all of the Jewish leaders would have confessed were fundamental commandments of God. But Jesus then contrasts the word of God with the traditions the scribes and Pharisees bound people to, saying, *But you say, Whoever says to his father or mother, Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God—'then he need not honor his father or mother. Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition*, verses 4-6.

Let us remember as we honor our mothers this Sunday, we are fulfilling God's fifth commandment: *Honor your father and mother* ... Let us hold to traditions that are honoring to the Lord and His Word but not make manmade traditions holy.

## Sunday Services

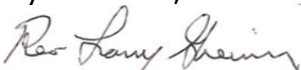
- Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m. for all ages which includes nursery care, preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school, couples class and a combined men's and women's adult class .
- Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. with a supervised nursery and 2/3 year old children's church. Children ages 4 through 2nd grade will sit with their parents for a portion of the worship service until they are dismissed for their children's church. We will have two locations for worship—in the sanctuary and the gym. Those who feel the need for more social distancing can view the service in the gym where it will be live-streamed. Please stay home if you or any household members have any signs of illness or underlining health issues of concern. Please be wise and hold to your convictions in these matters. For those who remain at home a video of the service will be available to watch on our church website, Facebook page and on YouTube once it is uploaded. It will not be live-streamed on the internet.
- Evening Service at 6 p.m. No children's programs will be held at this time.

## Wednesday Night Activities

- Word of Life Youth and Teen Clubs, Preschool (ages 3-5), Olympians (1st through 6th grade), Middle School and Senior High (7th through 12th grade)
- Women's Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study
- Nursery care available for children infant to two years of age

Please keep Nick and Kirsten in prayer as they prepare for their wedding day. Nick will be flying to Indiana on Thursday, May 13. The wedding is on Saturday, May 22.

By His Grace,



Pastor Larry