



Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Study Guide

WB: Monday 13th October

There are many commandments, traditions and rules we are expected to, or choose to follow. They may be imposed by God, our Government, Church, Employer, Sports and Games, Social Clubs and Societies, Doctors, Banks, Visitor Attractions, Social Media and probably many more.

1. As a group, thinking of specific examples, discuss rules and traditions that are good and healthy, and ones which maybe get in the way of positive outcomes.

Please read Mark 7:1-23

Jesus is quite scathing of the Pharisees.

2. Why did Jesus have issues with the washing of hands, containers and furniture?
3. How do you imagine the elders and pharisees managed to elevate these traditions to such prominence?

The Salmon Act (1986) forbids people from handling salmon in a 'suspicious way'. This seems a bit silly. But in the context that the act's purpose is to reduce salmon poaching, it makes a bit more sense.

4. Do you think, even if the Pharisees had stopped to consider the purpose of their washing traditions, that they may still have sought to use it to criticise Jesus and His disciples? Why/Why not?

Please re-read verses 9-12. The Pharisees have invented a complicated tradition whereby children can offer the profit they make for their parents as a gift to God. But in doing so they missed a simple point: By honouring their Father and Mother the children are giving a gift to God.

5. Are there examples in the modern church, or even in Hill Cliffe where we have over-complicated things that should be simple? In doing so, have we lost sight of the original, simple and Godly principles?
6. What about our own lives. Do we have any routines, rules or traditions that we should examine and consider if they should continue, be modified or cease?

"Life doesn't begin when we break the rules, it begins when we understand them well enough to choose which ones matter." -MS Copilot 2025

7. Is this statement true?