

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY OUTLINE

I. THE TRADITIONALISTS AT WORK: MATTHEW 15:1-2

1. Who came from Jerusalem to confer with Jesus? Matthew 15:1
2. Who were the Pharisees and Scribes (teachers of the law) of Jesus' day? Use a Bible Dictionary. [Pharisees (separated ones) – a religious and political party in Palestine in New Testament times. The Pharisees were known for insisting that the law of God be observed as the scribes interpreted it and for their special commitment to keeping the laws of tithing and ritual purity. These were the laws that other people were less careful about observing. Pharisees observed the Law carefully as far as appearances went, but their hearts were far from God. Their motives were wrong because they wanted the praise of men. They also had evil desires that were hidden by their pious show. That is why Pharisees are often called hypocrites: their hearts did not match their outward appearance. Scribes – Members of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times who studied the Scriptures and served as copyists, editors, and teachers. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary]
3. What did the Pharisees and the teachers of the law observe about Jesus' disciples? Mark 7:2
4. How do we practice man-made laws or traditions in the church today? Do you think they are good or bad? Discuss.
5. Do you think the tradition of these religious leaders was one of hygiene or ritual? Discuss.
6. What question did the religious leaders ask? To whom was the question addressed? Why do you think so? Matthew 15:2a
7. What did the religious leaders accuse Jesus’ disciples of breaking? Matthew 15:2b
8. How did these traditionalists observe what they thought was the Mosaic Law? Mark 7:3-4

v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 4a \_\_\_\_\_

v. 4b \_\_\_\_\_

## II. JESUS REBUKE THE TRADITIONALISTS: MATTHEW 15:3-9

9. What did Jesus accuse these traditionalist of breaking? Matthew 15:3
10. According to Matthew 15:3, what were these traditionalists putting before God's Law?
11. Which commandment did Jesus say these traditionalists were guilty of breaking? Matthew 15:4a
12. What was the punishment if one did not keep the fifth commandment? Matthew 15:4b
13. How did these traditionalists try to circumvent the fifth commandment? Matthew 15:5-6
14. What did Jesus call these religious faultfinders? Matthew 15:7a
15. What is a "hypocrite"?
16. Who did Jesus say had described people like these traditionalists? Matthew 15:7b
17. How did the prophet Isaiah define a hypocrite? Matthew 15:8
18. How did Isaiah describe the worship and teaching of hypocrites? Matthew 15:9  
v. 9a \_\_\_\_\_  
v. 9b \_\_\_\_\_

## III. THE OUTCOME OF HYPOCRITICAL TRADITIONALISTS: MATTHEW 15:10-14

19. What did Jesus do after condemning the Pharisees and scribes? Matthew 15:10a
20. What did Jesus want the crowd to understand? Matthew 15:10b-11
21. How did the Pharisees react to what Jesus had said to them? Who told Jesus about their sentiment? Matthew 15:12
22. What did Jesus want His disciples to know about the outcome of these hypocritical Pharisees? Matthew 15:13
23. How did Jesus want the disciples to respond to the hypocritical Pharisees? Why? Matthew 15:14