

Sermon Supplement from September 22

Growing in Worship (pt 1) – Matthew 15:1-9

WARM UP

- What comes to mind when you think about the word “worship”? Why?

DIG IN

Read Matthew 15:1-9

- How would you describe the Pharisees’ big problem in verses 1-2?
- In what ways does tradition often obscure or trump truth?
- How does Jesus keep drawing them back to the Scriptures in verses 3-6.
- How does self-serving religion often masquerade as God-honoring worship?
- Why was Jesus’ indictment in verses 7-9 so cutting to the religious leaders of his day?
- How does this story exhibit both the centrality of the Word and the importance of the heart?
- How is this story a warning against letting our heads and hands get ahead of our hearts?
- *For more on Jesus’ attitude toward heartless worship, see Matthew 23.*

Read John 4:1-24

- What does Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman teach us about the importance of the heart?

WRAP UP

- If “*Growing in worship must start in your heart,*” what needs to change? What sins do you need to repent of? Have you held traditions or religious activities too closely? Are you spiritually burned out or depleted? Have you spent time lately responding to God in thankfulness?
- What steps do you need to take as a result of this study?

Resource – Word of Life Quiet Time Journals (available for all ages): a great way to do personal Bible reading every day. (<https://youthministry.wol.org/resources/quiet-time/>)

Next Week – Growing in Worship (pt 2)