

Food for Thought

For the week of August 18, 2013

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. Chris mentioned that Joseph's work ethic was such that Pharaoh wondered if there were any more like him amongst his brothers who could work for him. That's a pretty good goal for us – to work in such a way that your boss wants to hire more people like you. The following Proverbs give principles for how to work in a way that moves us towards that goal. As you read them jot down what each one says about work and how that principle could be applied in your work, school, or home environment.

Proverbs 10:4

Proverbs 14:23

Proverbs 16:26

Proverbs 22:29

Proverbs 28:19

2. This weekend Chris talked encouraged us to get right with God instead of getting religious. Jesus had a lot to say about "getting religious" when he addressed the Pharisees, a group of religious leaders of his day. They used their cultural teachings and man-made rules to try to demonstrate how "all in" they were for God even though their hearts were far from him. As you read the passages below, identify what they did that looked religious on the outside, but in reality fell far short of what God wanted.

Mark 7:1-13

Matthew 23:23-28

Can you think of any motivations or issues that caused them to miss what God was really calling them to do?

What does Jesus say are some of the results of following tradition and man-made rules and not really surrendering to God?

As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed some tradition or man-made rule to give you a false sense of surrender?

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Proverbs 10:4

4 Lazy hands make for poverty,
but diligent hands bring wealth. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:26

26 The appetite of laborers works for them;
their hunger drives them on. [NIV]

Proverbs 22:29

Saying 6

29 Do you see someone skilled in their work?
They will serve before kings;
they will not serve before officials of low rank. [NIV]

Proverbs 28:19

19 Those who work their land will have abundant food,
but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. [NIV]

2. This weekend Chris talked encouraged us to get right with God instead of getting religious. Jesus had a lot to say about “getting religious” when he addressed the Pharisees, a group of religious leaders of his day. They used their cultural teachings and man-made rules to try to demonstrate how “all in” they were for God even though their hearts were far from him. As you read the passages below, identify what they did that looked religious on the outside, but in reality fell far short of what God wanted.

Mark 7:1-13

That Which Defiles

1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus 2 and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.
7 They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’
8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”
9 And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ 11 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— 12 then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” [NIV]

Matthew 23:23-28

23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.
25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.
27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. [NIV]

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