

## ***Study Guide on Matthew 15:1-20***

### **New Revised Standard Version**

Assign each person in the class one or more verses to study.  
Each person should answer these two questions on their assigned verse.

1. What does this verse say?
2. What does this verse mean to me?
3. Discuss your answers with the class.

### **Matthew 15:1-20**

(Matthew 15:1) Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,

(Matthew 15:2) “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.”

(Matthew 15:3) He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?

(Matthew 15:4) For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’

(Matthew 15:5) But you say that whoever tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,’ then that person need not honor the father.

(Matthew 15:6) So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God.

(Matthew 15:7) You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

(Matthew 15:8) ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

(Matthew 15:9) in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’“

(Matthew 15:10) Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:

(Matthew 15:11) it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”

(Matthew 15:12) Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”

(Matthew 15:13) He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

(Matthew 15:14) Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

(Matthew 15:15) But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

(Matthew 15:16) Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?

(Matthew 15:17) Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?

(Matthew 15:18) But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

(Matthew 15:19) For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

(Matthew 15:20) These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

**Write the verse or verses you have been assigned in the space below:**

**Answer These Questions for Class Discussion or Study**

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean to me?