

What Lies Beneath

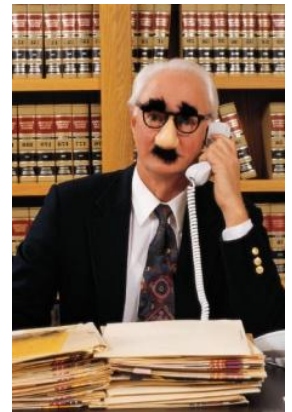
Matthew 15:1-20

Getting Started

What kinds of masks have you worn?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 15:1-2.** Why were the Pharisees and teachers of the law upset with Jesus? What was the problem?
2. **Read Matt 15:3-6.** Write a paraphrase of Jesus' response in verse 3.
3. How were the religious leaders putting a greater emphasis on keeping their tradition than in obeying the law of God?
4. Can you think of examples of how we are in danger of doing this today?
5. **Read Matt 15:7-9.** How does Jesus use the quote from Isaiah 29:13 to illustrate the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?
6. **Read Matt 15:10-14.** Why were the Pharisees like plants that will be uprooted?
7. How were they like blind guides?
8. **Read Matt 15:15-18.** In verse 15, the disciples refer to Jesus' statement in v. 11 as a parable. How does Jesus explain this *parable* in vv. 17-18? What is his main point?
9. **Read Matt 15:19-20.** How does Jesus illustrate his point in these two verses?
10. How does this list of sins compare with the 10 Commandments? (cf. Exod 20:3-17)
11. How does hypocrisy tend to creep into the church?



Getting Personal

- How are we in danger of allowing tradition to trump truth in the church today? (Take time with this one. List several examples.)
- What is hypocrisy? Give several examples.
- Is there an area in which you've allowed external religiosity to become a substitute for internal righteousness?