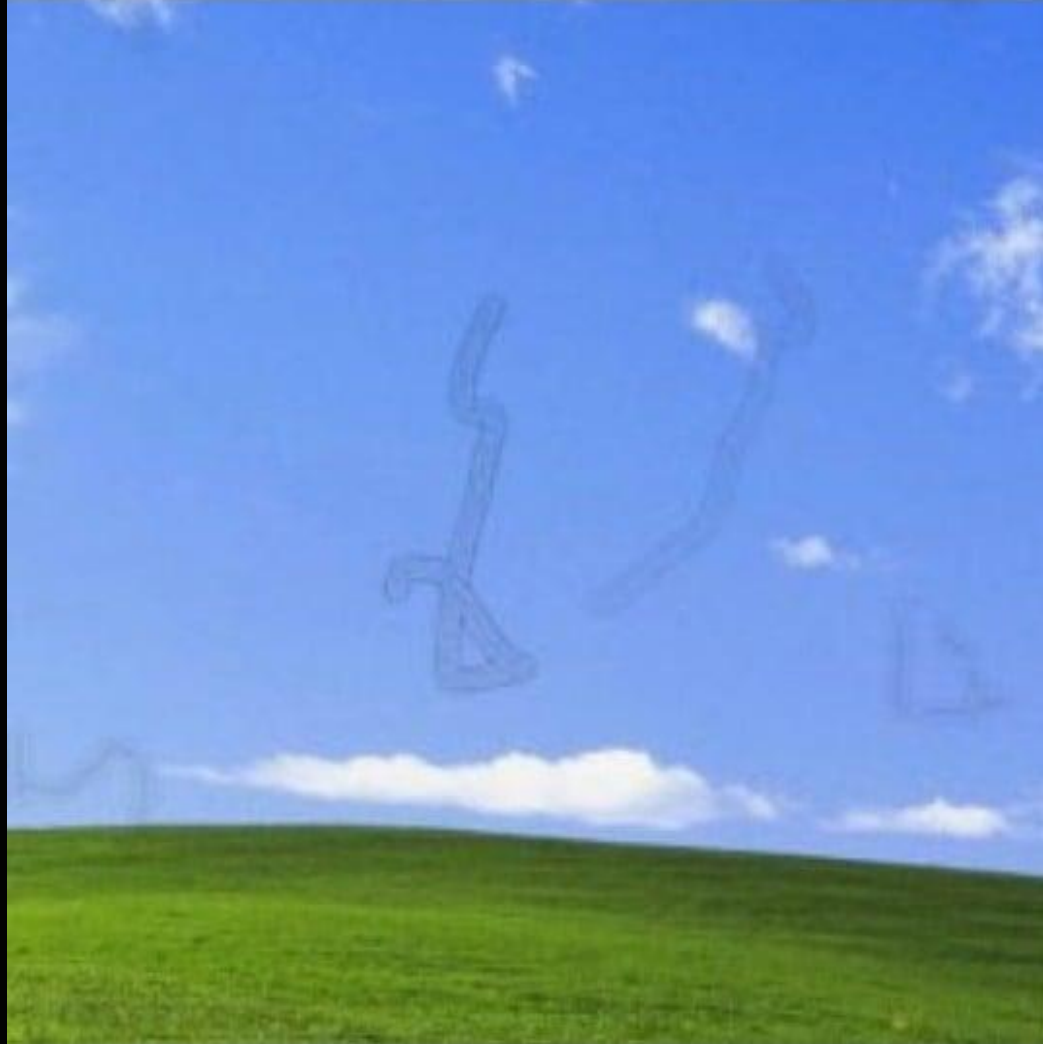


I am never Lonely cause I got
these little guys with me

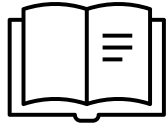




BLIND GUIDES

Matthew 15:1-20



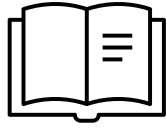


Matthew 15:1-2

Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

TRUTH OR TRADITION?

- The Pharisees felt so strongly about their position, that they traveled for days to confront Jesus
- They question him about tradition, which they felt was an accurate view of scripture (**Exodus 30**)
- It is possible for our **opinions** on a matter to move to **tradition** and then simply to **truth**



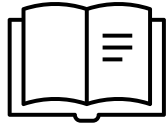
Matthew 15:7-9

“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’ ”

DANGEROUS HYPOCRISY

- Jesus doesn’t immediately respond to their question, rather he calls out their own hypocrisy
- They were getting out of honoring their parents by vowing that extra money “was going to God”
- Are we more fixated on the perceived sins of others than we are on our own righteousness?



Matthew 15:10-11

After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, “Hear and understand. “It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.”

BLIND GUIDES

- Jesus is more interested in the *crowds* knowing the truth than simply correcting the Pharisees
- He elevated morality over their perception of the importance of ceremony and ritual
- If we can't differentiate between what is important and what is opinion, we are blind guides

Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?”



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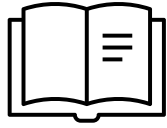
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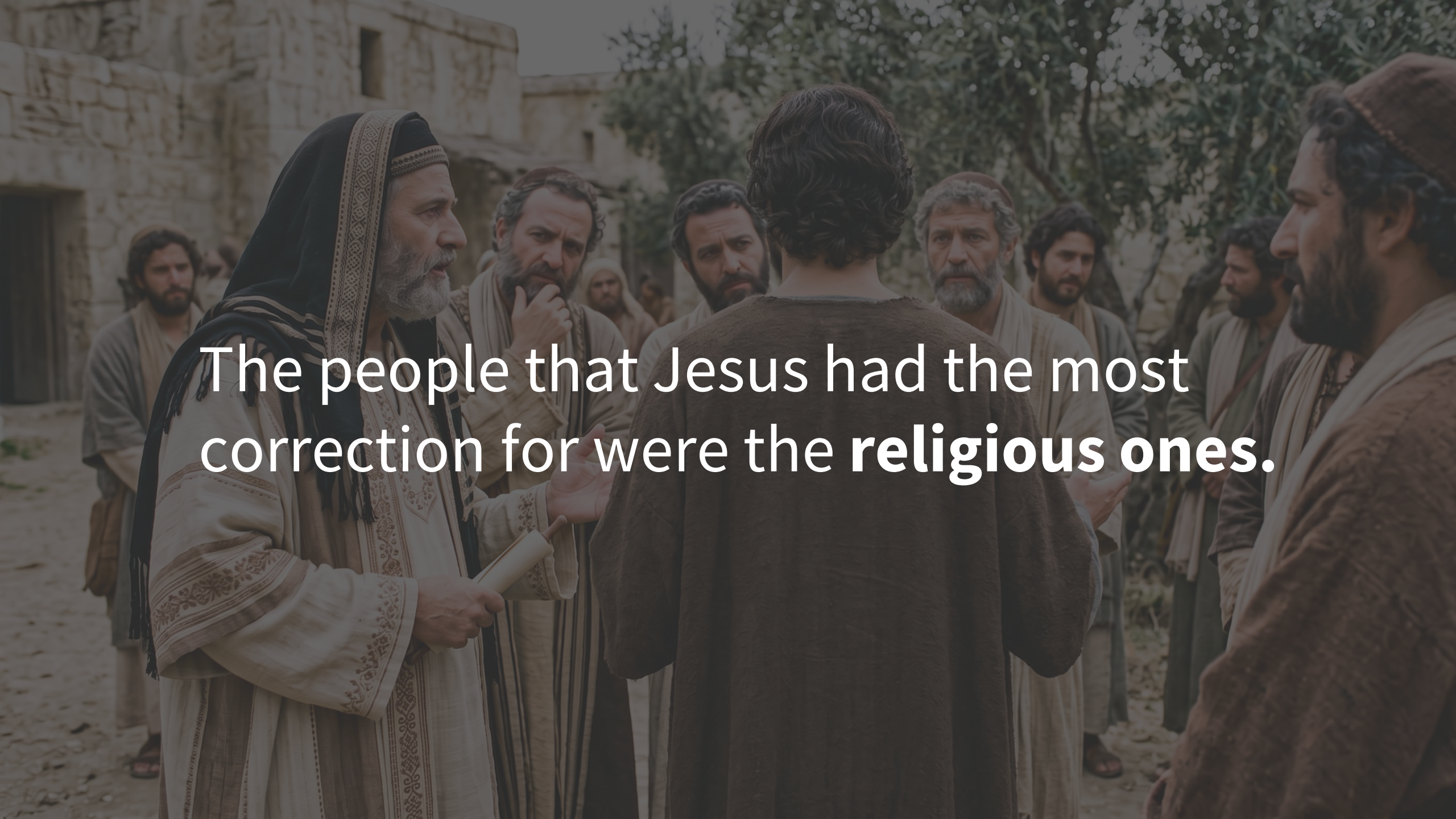


Matthew 15:18-19

“But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”

WHAT DEFILES US

- Jesus using a *practical truth* about food that he thinks we ought to be able to figure out
- He highlights the source of evil – **thoughts** that lead to **speech** that leads to **action**
- They were not able to see this reality of critical importance. *They were blind to discerning truth.*

A cinematic still from a religious film. In the center, a man with dark, wavy hair, seen from behind, wears a simple brown tunic. He is surrounded by a group of men in traditional Jewish attire. To the left, an older man with a long white beard and a black head covering with gold trim (a Pharisee or scribe) holds a scroll and gestures with his right hand. Other men in the background have various expressions of skepticism or concern. The setting is outdoors with stone buildings and trees in the background.

The people that Jesus had the most
correction for were the **religious ones.**

Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

**WE ARE BLIND
GUIDES IF...**

We wield
opinions as
truth to
divide and
destroy.

**WE ARE BLIND
GUIDES IF...**

We don't have
a sense of our
own sins and
shortcomings.

**WE ARE BLIND
GUIDES IF...**

We fail to
recognize
what really
matters to
God.

He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.