

Matthew Chapters Fifteen - Eighteen Questionnaire

1. Why did Jesus condemn the tradition of elders concerning the commandment of God that promises long life in Exodus 20:12;?

Or, as Mark 7:11 expresses it, "it is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me, he shall be free, and ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or mother".

For the understanding of this tradition, let it be observed, that the word "Corban" signifies a gift, or offering, which was devoted to sacred use; and was unalienable, and could not be converted to any other use; and that this word was used among the Jews, from hence, as the form of an oath, or vow, and not under any obligation to regard and relieve his parents.

2. Explain “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees” and give a present day example.

Matthew 16:12 “Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”

The doctrines the Pharisees taught were the commandments and inventions of men, the traditions of the elders, free will, and justification by the works of the law: the

doctrine of the Sadducees was, that there was no resurrection of the dead, nor angels, nor spirits: now because they sought secretly and artfully to infuse their notions into the minds of men; and which, when imbibed, spread their infection, and made men sour, morose, rigid, and ill natured, and swelled and puffed them up with pride and vanity, **Christ** compares them to leaven; and advises his disciples to look about them, to watch, and be on their guard, lest they should be infected with them.

3. Matthew 16:18 states “upon this rock I will build my church,” to what rock was Jesus referring?

Some have supposed that the word ROCK = πετρος refers to Peter's confession; and that he meant to say, upon this rock-- this truth that thou hast confessed, that I am the Messiah--and upon confessions of this from all believers, I will build my church. Confessions like this shall be the test of piety; and in such confessions shall my church stand amidst the flames of persecution--the fury of the gates of hell. Others have thought that he referred to himself.

Christ is called a rock, *πετρα* Isaiah 28:16; 1Peter 2:8. And it has been thought that he turned from Peter to himself, and said: "Upon this rock, this truth that I am the Messiah--upon myself as the Messiah--I will build my church."

Both these interpretations, though plausible, seem forced upon the passage to avoid the main difficulty in it. Another interpretation is, that the word rock refers to Peter himself. This is the obvious meaning of the passage; BARNES - "I will make you the honoured instrument of making known my gospel first to Jews and Gentiles, and will make you a firm and distinguished preacher in building my church."

4. **To what does** Matthew 16:28 (“Verily I say unto you, there are some of them that stand here, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.”), **refer?**

Mark 9:1; “And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

Luke 9:27; “But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” **ESV**

All these apostles, except Judas, lived to see the wonders of the day of Pentecost; some of them, John particularly, saw the Jewish nation scattered, the temple destroyed, the gospel established in Asia, Rome, Greece, and in a large part of the known world.

5. Explain what change Jesus was referring to in Matthew 18:2, 3; (“And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.”).

στρεφω strepho stref'-o - from the base of 5157; to twist, i.e. turn quite around or reverse (literally or figuratively):—convert, turn (again, back again, self, self about). It is a general word, meaning any change.

The word regeneration denotes a particular change--the passing from death to life. Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

παλιγγενεσια paliggenesia *pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah* from 3825 and 1078; (spiritual) rebirth (the state or the act), i.e. (figuratively) spiritual renovation; specially, Messianic restoration:—regeneration.

The phrase, "except ye be converted," does not imply of necessity that they were not Christians before, or had not been born again. It means that their opinions and feelings about the kingdom of the Messiah must be changed. They had supposed that he was to be a temporal Prince. They expected that he would reign as other kings did. They supposed he would have his great officers of state, as other monarchs had. And they were ambitiously inquiring who should hold the highest offices; Jesus told them they were wrong in their views and expectations. No such things would take place. From these notions they must be turned, changed, or converted, or they could have no part in his kingdom. These ideas did not fit at all the nature of his kingdom. "To be humble as a little child!!!!"

Prayer Time