



Go Deep

Don't Mess With My Traditions

12.1.19

What holiday tradition have you kept over the years? Is Black Friday shopping one of them?

A KFC Christmas dinner has become a tradition in Japan. What food is a tradition at your celebration?

Read Mark 7:1-8. Once more, Jesus steps on peoples' cherished traditions. The issue was not "hand washing" but who or what has authority over our lives - Traditions or Christ?

Why do we hang so tightly to traditions?

People who study these types of things say we follow traditions because:

1. We like to follow the crowd.
2. We are afraid. Traditions give us security in an insecure world.

What do you think about those two explanations? Are they true for you?

We have developed traditions around the Christmas story. Here are a few:

1. "There was no room in the inn." **Read Luke 2:7** in [KJV](#) and [CSB](#).

What's different in these two versions?

Read [Mark 14:14](#). The same Greek word is used here that is used in Luke 2:7.

Historians and Bible scholars tell us that there was no room in the "guest room" of someone's house. *Does messing with the inn tradition mess with you?*

2. Jesus was born in December 25. Probably not. December 25 was, though, the time to celebrate Saturnalia - a harvest festival involving gift-giving, charitable acts to the poor, the decoration of trees. It was also the time to celebrate the Sun God - Sol Invictus. Most scholars say the church co-opted these holidays.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

How does Paul's instruction relate to our view of traditions?

The word "good" in this verse means "beautiful," "fine quality."

Based on this, what do we need to let go? What do we need to hang on to?