

SCCC – DON'T LOOK AT HANDS

S - Scriptures

“Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” Matthew 15: 1-2

C- Consideration

Jesus was about 70 miles from Jerusalem with his disciples, in Gennesaret. In his arrival, the men of that place recognized Jesus, and immediately they sent word to the entire surrounding region. As a result, people brought all their sick to Him and begged Him to let them just touch the edge of His cloak; and all who touched it were healed. The Lord knew their struggles, their needs, their sorrows, as Matthew had registered in chapter nine, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Meanwhile, the religious leaders made a long trip, and certainly, they saw right before their eyes many people rejoicing after they got healed from their diseases by touching Jesus’ cloak. However, their trip purposes were to spy and to oppose Jesus, out of envy and hatred. They were trying to find something to demerit Jesus’ ministry. After correcting and rebuking them, “Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth is what defiles them.”

C – Commitment

Have you done a trip without a purpose? Every trip that Jesus had done during his life on earth always had a reason. After reproaching the leaders, He left that place, and traveled about twenty-two miles to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” What a contrast between the Jewish leaders and the foreign mother. She had a heart full of grief out of compassion to see her possessed daughter delivered, while theirs were full of evil thoughts—murder, false testimony, slander, envy, and so on. The same is still happening in our days, where some people go to church looking for liturgic details such as, how other believers sing or clap their hands or not, how the preacher walks in the pulpit, or how someone is greeting at the church door. Therefore, they leave the church worse than they had entered. The right attitude is to follow the Canaanite woman’s example, who was not looking at the hands of the disciples but looking into Jesus to get her needs fulfilled. Therefore, before I leave for church, I have to make sure my heart has the right motivation to not fall into the same trap.

C – Call

Lord, thank you for the lessons I learned today from your word. Many times I have acted exactly as the Pharisees, looking for faults of other believers, with sinful behaviors that hurt

others. My God, help to search my heart, confess my sins, and always pray before leaving home, "Lord, speak to me as I go to Your house." In Jesus's name, I pray. Amen.