

IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME

Mark 7:5-9 (written in red) *“The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 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.’ “Neglecting the commandment of Yahveh, you hold to the tradition of men.”*



He was also saying to them, “You nicely set aside the commandment of Yahveh in order to keep your tradition.” Verse 5 is in reference to the ritual of the washing of hands (n’tilat-yadayim). The Pharisees had established a special ritual involving the washing of hands before touching anything kosher. In this manmade ritual one had to wash their hands in a specific way (order). The right hand had to be washed before the left, for example. In verses 6 on, Yeshua makes it clear you can “WORSHIP IN VAIN” by following the teachings of men. That is exactly what so many of our so-called Christian Churches are doing today, worshipping in vain. The word “VAIN” here opens up something that should be explained. In this verse, Yeshua is repeating words from **Isa. 29:13** of the Old Testament **“And honor me with their lip service”** to emphasize the importance of following the Word of YHVH rather than the traditions of man.

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