

Tradition or Truth? (Matthew 5:21ff; Luke 6:40; Mark 7:13)

"My uncle ordered popovers from the restaurant's bill of fare.
And, when they were served, he regarded them with a penetrating stare.
Then he spoke great words of wisdom as he sat there on that chair.
'To eat those things,' said my uncle, 'You must exercise great care.
You may swallow down what's solid, BUT... you must spit out the air!'
And as you take of the world's bill of fare, that's darned good advice to follow.
Do a lot of spitting our the hot air, and be careful what you swallow!"

Theodore Geisel (aka, Dr Seuss)

A significant part of the Christian journey involves learning to "spit out" what didn't come from God in the first place! (Genuine discipleship can be very dis-illusioning.) The tension between what God says and what others say is as old as creation itself. History's first question recorded in the Bible is "Really now, did God actually say...?" (Gen 3:1)

Life is filled with open friction between what God says and others say. This friction may be seen most succinctly and clearly in Matthew 5:21 and following: "You've heard it said... but I say to you..." And there we have the conflict between tradition and truth! And with this clash comes a question: Which is the object of our faith? In such a conflict of loyalties, which has the higher priority?

Why is that so important? Because Jesus said in Luke 6:40, "Everyone, after he is fully trained, WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER." We will all "follow" our teacher(s). (See Matt 8:19) Tradition is what we've been told - "You've heard it said." Truth, however, is what God says - "But I say to you." Truth is not borrowed from anyone (you can't borrow someone else's revelation - Matt 25:1ff.) - it can only be freely received from God.

In Mark 7:13, Jesus charged some very religious people with "un-lording" the Truth and crowning tradition "King". To whom have we tuned our ears? To whom have we given authority to tell us the Truth? Who have we become like?

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 **GREETINGS** 

Due to insufficient reservations by our deadlines, we had to cancel our Florida retreat this year. We simply did not meet our minimal numbers for our contracts with our motel and caterers. We hope none of your plans were greatly disturbed and apologize for any inconveniences.





We plan to continue these retreats in the years to come, perhaps in the same form (it worked great for 28 years!), or, in somewhat different forms. We are discussing "timing", 2 day or 3 day events, venues, etc. We are even considering 2 or 3 smaller events each year - groups with a maximum of 30 - one in the fall, one in the winter (July in Florida for anyone?).

We would appreciate "feedback" concerning your ideas and interest from those who've been a part of this event for years as well as from those who've never been but would like to attend. If you could drop us a line, send us an email/text in the next 30-60 days we would appreciate it greatly!

We love doing this event and really missed seeing so many of you - it's been a "tradition!" However, we never want to crown the past as "King" - we want the Truth Himself and what He says to be our Lord and our Guide. (See front page!)

March	
12,19	CCF
14	Alachua Study
*21	*Ocala Study* ← NOTE CHANGE *
25-29	Tyler, TX (903-561-9995)
April	
3-6	Asheville, NC
May	
4-7	Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)
June	
1-4	Louisville, KY (502-245-4581)

 **PRAISE and PRAYER** 

-  Thanks for encouragers & supporters
-  Thanks for detractors & critics
-  Wisdom for retreat plans
-  Loving Truth for upcoming events