

# Matthew 15:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

## Analysis

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The arrival of scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem signals official scrutiny of Jesus' ministry. These religious authorities represented the theological establishment, traveling from the center of Jewish power to investigate Jesus' growing influence. Their presence initiates a crucial confrontation between divine authority and human tradition. From a Reformed perspective, this encounter reveals the fundamental conflict between God's Word and man's religious systems, foreshadowing the rejection of Christ by institutional religion.

## Historical Context

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The scribes were experts in Mosaic Law and its interpretation, while Pharisees were a strict Jewish sect emphasizing oral tradition alongside Scripture. Their journey from Jerusalem (about 80 miles) demonstrated serious concern about Jesus' movement. This delegation likely represented the Sanhedrin's interests in evaluating Jesus' orthodoxy.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does religious authority sometimes oppose genuine spiritual truth?
2. What traditions in your religious practice might need examination against Scripture?
3. How do you respond when church leaders question your faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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Τότε προσέρχονται τῷ Ἰησοῦ οἱ ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων  
**Then** **came** G3588 **to Jesus** G3588 **which were of** **Jerusalem**  
G5119 G4334 G2424 G575 G2414

γραμματεῖς καὶ Φαρισαῖοι λέγοντες  
**scribes** **and** **Pharisees** **saying**  
G1122 G2532 G5330 G3004

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 23:9** (Resurrection): And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

**Mark 3:22** (References Jerusalem): And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

**Matthew 5:20** (Resurrection): For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 23:2** (Resurrection): Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

**Luke 5:21** (Resurrection): And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

**Luke 5:17** (Resurrection): And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

**Luke 5:30** (Resurrection): But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

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