

Matthew 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Analysis

Jesus exposes the Corban abuse: saying to parents 'It is a gift devoted to God' (Corban) allowed avoiding parental support. This exemplifies how religious activity can become excuse for moral failure. Reformed theology emphasizes that genuine piety never contradicts moral duty. The Pharisees prioritized ritual giving over family responsibility, inverting God's priorities. Their tradition made God's commandment ineffective.

Historical Context

Corban (קָרְבָּן) means 'offering' or 'that which is brought near.' Once declared Corban, property was theoretically dedicated to God and unavailable for other uses, including parental support. The Mishnah (Nedarim 9:1) later acknowledged this created problems. Jesus exposes how this vow was manipulated to avoid the fifth commandment while maintaining appearance of piety.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How might you use spiritual commitments to avoid difficult responsibilities?
2. What does it mean to honor God in family relationships?
3. How can religious activity become an idol that hinders genuine obedience?

Interlinear Text

ὁμοῖς δὲ λέγετε ὁ ἄν εἴπη τῷ πατρὶ ἢ
ye **But** **say** **Whosoever** G302 **shall say** G3588 **to his father** **or**
G5210 G1161 G3004 G3739 G2036 G3962 G2228

τῇ μητρὶ Δῶρον ὁ ἐὰν ἐξ ἐμοῦ
G3588 **his mother** **It is a gift** **Whosoever** G1437 **by** **by me**
G3384 G1435 G3739 G1537 G1700

ὠφεληθῆς
thou mightest be profited
G5623

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:29 (Parallel theme): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
