

# The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

## The King's Road: Purity From the King's Perspective Matthew 15:1–20

### Small Group Discussion Questions

#### Opening Icebreaker

- What is a tradition (family, church, or cultural) that was very important in your upbringing?
- Have you ever discovered that something you strongly believed was more of a tradition than Scripture?

### I. Question and Answer (Matthew 15:1-11)

#### Understanding the Passage

1. Why did the Pharisees and scribes confront Jesus and His disciples?
2. What was the difference between ceremonial handwashing and ordinary washing for cleanliness?
3. How did Jesus turn the question back on the religious leaders?
4. What example did Jesus use to show how their traditions were violating God's commands?
5. Why did Jesus call them hypocrites?

#### Digging Deeper

6. Why is it dangerous to elevate human traditions to the same level as God's Word?
7. What does Isaiah's description of people honoring God with their lips but not their hearts mean?
8. Why do you think religious traditions can sometimes become more important to people than Scripture itself?

#### Personal Application

9. Are there any traditions, preferences, or assumptions you have that might need to be tested against Scripture?
10. Where is there a gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live?
11. What does it look like to honor God with both your lips and your heart?

#### Prayer Prompts

- Ask God to reveal any traditions or habits that have taken priority over His Word.
- Pray for a heart that genuinely loves and obeys God rather than merely appearing religious.
- Ask God to help your actions match your profession of faith.

### II. Question, Answer, and Explanation (Matthew 15:12-20)

#### Understanding the Passage

12. Why were the Pharisees offended by Jesus' teaching?
13. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up"?
14. Why did Jesus describe the Pharisees as "blind guides"?
15. According to Jesus, what actually defiles a person?
16. What contrast is Jesus making between what enters the mouth and what comes out of it?

## **Digging Deeper**

17. Why are people often more concerned with outward behavior than inward transformation?
18. What does Jesus teach us about the connection between the heart and our words and actions?
19. How does this passage challenge common assumptions about what makes a person "good" or "spiritual"?

## **Personal Application**

20. Looking at Jesus' list in verses 19-20 (evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander), which area most convicts you personally?
21. What does your speech reveal about what is happening in your heart?
22. Who are the voices or leaders influencing you most right now? Are they helping you follow Christ faithfully?

## **Prayer Prompts**

- Ask God to search your heart and reveal hidden sin.
- Confess any attitudes, thoughts, or words that are dishonoring to Christ.
- Pray for wisdom to follow godly leaders and discern false influences.

## **Application Questions**

23. What is the main lesson Jesus wanted His disciples to learn about purity?
24. How does this passage change the way you think about spiritual growth?
25. The sermon concluded by asking: "*What is the one area that if I surrendered it, would make everything else easier?*" How would you answer that question today?
26. What specific step of obedience is God calling you to take this week?

## **Closing Prayer**

Spend time praying Psalm 139:23-24 together:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Ask God to bring about true heart transformation rather than mere outward conformity, and to help each group member pursue the purity Jesus values.

