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CUSTOM, CUSTOMARY, CUSTOMS

There was a **custom** in ancient times that when the Jews ate meat, they wouldn't eat the sinew which was upon the hollow of the thigh. (This is because when God wrestled with Jacob He touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh and put it out of joint.)

- **Genesis 32:25, 32:** "And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. ... Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank."

God forbade the Israelites from copying the abominable **customs** of the Canaanites.

- **Leviticus 18:30:** "Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God."

God said the **customs** of the pagans were vain (empty and worthless). (This seems to be a reference to idolatry.)

- **Jeremiah 10:3-5:** "For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do

evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

In the days of Jeremiah, there was a **custom** that the evidence of a land purchase had to be sealed.

- **Jeremiah 32:9, 11-12:** "And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. ... So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison."

When Jesus met Matthew, he was sitting at the receipt of **custom** (taxes).

- **Matthew 9:9:** "And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."

Jesus asked Peter who the kings of the earth collected **custom** or tribute from. (This is a reference to taxes.)

- **Matthew 17:25:** "He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?"

Levi left his job at the receipt of **custom** (tax) to follow Jesus.

- **Mark 2:14:** "And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."
- **Luke 5:27-28:** "And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him."

At the Passover feast there was a **custom** in which Pilate released a prisoner to the Jews.

- **Mark 15:6:** "Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired."
- **Luke 23:17:** "(For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)"
- **John 18:39:** "But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"

In the days of Jesus, it was the **custom** for the Jews to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

- **Luke 2:41:** "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover."

It was the **custom** of Jesus to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

- **Luke 4:16:** "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been

brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

It was **customary** in ancient times for hosts to provide their guests with water to wash their feet.

- **Luke 7:44:** "And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head."

It was **customary** in ancient times for hosts to kiss their guests as a greeting when they arrived.

- **Luke 7:45:** "Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet."

It was **customary** in ancient times for hosts to anoint the head of their guests with oil.

- **Luke 7:46:** "My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment."

Jesus didn't submit to the **customs** of his day.

- **Luke 11:38, 41:** "And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. ... But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you."

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, it was the **custom** of the

Jews to bury people in linen clothes and spices.

- **John 19:40:** "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury."

False witnesses claimed that Stephen taught that Jesus was going to change the **customs** that Moses gave to them.

- **Acts 6:14:** "For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us."

The elders of the church at Jerusalem wanted Paul to agree with them that Jews must obey the whole Mosaic Law, and keep the **customs** and traditions of the elders.

- **Acts 21:21-22, 24:** "And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. ... Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law."

King Agrippa was an expert when it came to the **customs** of the Jews.

- **Acts 26:2-3:** "I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all

the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently."

Paul told the Jews of Rome that he hadn't violated any of the **customs** of their ancestors.

- **Acts 28:17:** "And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans."

Paul's teachings about head coverings dealt with a **custom** in one of the local churches that wasn't followed by any other church. The apostle defended it and said it made sense, but he also said that other churches didn't have to follow it. (In other words, it's not wrong for a church to have a custom that isn't shared by other churches, provided that it's based on the Bible and doesn't come from the world.)

- **1 Corinthians 11:5, 16:** "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. ... But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

HABIT, HABITS, HABITUALLY, TENDENCY, TENDING, TENDS

Abram had a **habit** of taking matters into his own hands (which consistently got him into trouble). Even though God promised to watch over Abram and protect him, he still repeatedly lied about his relationship with his wife.

- **Genesis 12:12-13:** "Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee."

Abram had a **habit** of building an altar to the Lord wherever he lived.

- **Genesis 13:18:** "Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD."

Abraham had a **habit** of sparing no expense when strangers came to see him (even to the extent of preparing a calf for those who came by).

- **Genesis 18:7:** "And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it."

Abraham had a **habit** of rising up early.

- **Genesis 19:27:** "And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:"

When Rebekah was young, she had a **habit** of running wherever she went.

- **Genesis 24:28:** "And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things."

Jacob had a **habit** of hiding his deception by saying God had done it. (The reason Jacob obtained Laban's cattle was because of his genetic tricks, not because of God's blessing.)

- **Genesis 31:8-9:** "If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me."
- **Genesis 31:42:** "Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight."

Jacob had a **habit** of marking places by setting up a stone as a pillar.

- **Genesis 31:45:** "And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar."
- **Genesis 35:14:** "And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil

thereon."

Jacob's sons had a **habit** of lying to people in very malicious ways. (In reality his sons weren't trying to make a covenant with the people of Shechem. Instead their plan was to catch them off guard and slaughter them, which is exactly what they did.)

- **Genesis 34:13, 16:** "And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister: ... Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people."

Pharaoh's daughter was in the **habit** of washing herself at the river.

- **Exodus 2:5:** "And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it."

When God told Moses to do something, it seems he had a **habit** of trying to find reasons not to do it.

- **Exodus 3:11:** "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"
- **Exodus 4:1:** "And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee."

- **Exodus 4:10:** "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."
- **Exodus 4:13:** "And he said, O my LORD, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send."
- **Exodus 6:12:** "And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?"

Pharaoh had a **habit** of going to the water early in the morning.

- Exodus 8:20: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Balaam had a **habit** of speaking in parables.

- **Numbers 24:15:** "And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:"
- **Numbers 24:20:** "And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever."

Samson had a **habit** of revealing his secrets to women who kept pestering him until he gave in and told them.

- **Judges 14:17:** "And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people."
- **Judges 16:17:** "That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

David had a lifelong **habit** of refusing to bring wicked people to justice. Even though he was the anointed king of Israel, he did nothing and allowed them to continue doing terrible things. (For example, he refused to do anything about Saul, who was guilty of mass murder and genocide. He did nothing when Amnon raped his daughter, or when Joab murdered Abner. He even refused to stop Shimei from throwing rocks at his servants.)

- **1 Samuel 24:12:** "The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee."

Saul had a lifelong **habit** of breaking the Mosaic Law whenever he thought he would benefit from it.

- **1 Samuel 28:7:** "Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor."

David had a **habit** of leaving his wives behind when he fled from danger, and allowing terrible things to happen to him. (When David fled from Saul he left his wife Michal behind, who Saul then gave to another man. When David fled from Absalom he left ten concubines behind, who his son Absalom then publicly raped. In both cases David could have taken those women with him and protected them, but he didn't.)

- **1 Samuel 19:12:** "So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped."
- **2 Samuel 15:16:** "And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house."

It seems Naaman didn't realize that Elisha had a **habit** of not seeing people, and instead sending other people to talk to them.

- **2 Kings 5:10-11:** "And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper."

Jehoshaphat had a **habit** of joining forces with wicked kings, even though God rebuked him for it.

- **1 Kings 22:4:** "And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses."

- **2 Chronicles 20:35:** "And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:"

Eliphaz had a **habit** of cursing people who he believed were fools.

- **Job 5:3:** "I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation."

After Darius forbade people from praying to anyone other than him, Daniel didn't change his **habits**. Before the law was signed he publicly prayed three times a day, and after the law was signed he continued to do that.

- **Daniel 6:10:** "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

In the days of Amos, the Israelites were **habitually** dishonest. They used false weights to defraud people.

- **Amos 8:5:** "Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?"

The disciples of Jesus had a **tendency** to ignore the important things He told them and instead focus on their own greatness. (For example, after Jesus told them that He was going to be

betrayed, they ignored that and argued over which of them was greater.)

- **Luke 22:22, 24:** "And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! ... And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."

Peter had a **habit** of praying around noon.

- **Acts 10:9:** "On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:"

Paul was in the **habit** of going to the Jewish synagogue on the Sabbath.

- **Acts 13:14:** "But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down."
- **Acts 17:2:** "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,"

The people whom God calls are typically from those the world would consider the lower classes, not the upper classes. God **tends** to call those who society has little interest in or respect for.

- **1 Corinthians 1:26-27:** "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and

God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"

Church leaders must not have a **tendency** to engage in physical violence. (If they do then that disqualifies them.)

- **Titus 1:7:** "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;"

TRADITION, TRADITIONS

The scribes and Pharisees were so upset that the disciples of Jesus violated the **tradition** of the elders that they traveled all the way from Jerusalem to talk to Jesus about it.

- **Matthew 15:1-2:** "Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread."

It was a **tradition** of the elders that people should wash their hands before eating bread.

- **Matthew 15:2:** "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread."

The scribes and Pharisees were using their **traditions** to violate God's commandments.

- **Matthew 15:3:** "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

The **tradition** of the elders encouraged people to give money to the temple instead of supporting their parents (as the Mosaic Law required). This was a violation of God's command to honor your father and mother.

- **Matthew 15:5-6:** "But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or

his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

- **Mark 7:10-11, 13:** "For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. ... Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

When the scribes and Pharisees condemned the disciples of Jesus for breaking the **tradition** of the elders, they were hypocrites. They enforced their own traditions but broke God's commandments.

- **Matthew 15:7:** "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,"

There was a **tradition** that at the feast of the Passover, the governor freed whatever prisoner the people wanted released.

- **Matthew 27:15:** "Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would."

The Pharisees and the Jews believed that they were required to follow the **traditions** of the elders. (Jesus rebuked them for this.)

- **Mark 7:3:** "For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition

of the elders."

Washing your hands before eating was a **tradition** of the elders of the Jews, not a Biblical command.

- **Mark 7:3:** "For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders."

There were many **traditions** of the elders which involved washing things.

- **Mark 7:4:** "And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables."

The scribes and Pharisees expected the disciples of Jesus to obey the **tradition** of the elders.

- **Mark 7:5:** "Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?"

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for replacing the commandments of God with the **traditions** of men.

- **Mark 7:7-8:** "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do."

Washing cups and pots is a **tradition** of man, not a commandment from God. (Those who fail to do that before eating aren't sinning, in spite of what the Pharisees claimed.)

- **Mark 7:8:** "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do."

It's wrong to place the **traditions** of men above the commandments of God.

- **Mark 7:9:** "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

Jesus didn't give any support to the **traditions** of the Pharisees. Instead He firmly rebuked them for replacing the commandments of God with the traditions of men.

- **Mark 7:13:** "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

The **tradition** of the Pharisees was wrong. It's not a sin to eat without washing your hands first.

- **Mark 7:15:** "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man."

Jesus didn't submit to the **traditions** of men.

- **Luke 11:38:** "And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner."

Jesus rejected the **traditions** of the Pharisees and continued to heal on the Sabbath, even though the religious leaders were trying to kill Him for doing so.

- **John 9:14:** "And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes."

Some of the Pharisees argued that Jesus couldn't be from God because He healed people on the Sabbath day. (However, that only violated the **traditions** of men, not the commandments of God.)

- **John 9:16:** "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them."

Paul was more zealous for the **traditions** of the Jews than his peers.

- **Galatians 1:14:** "And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers."

The apostle Paul said that the religion of the Jews came from their **traditions**, not from God.

- **Galatians 1:14:** "And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers."

The **traditions** of men dangerous. They're the enemy of the gospel.

- **Colossians 2:8:** "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

It's wrong for Christians to subject themselves to the **traditions** of men (instead of the commandments of God).

- **Colossians 2:20-22:** "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?"

Paul didn't say it was fine for the church to walk away from the doctrines of God and follow their own **traditions** instead. Instead he forbade the church from adding anything to what the apostles had taught, or taking anything away from it.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:15:** "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

The church has no business following the **traditions** of men. We must walk by the light of the Scriptures and stick solely to the commandments that God has given us.

- **Titus 1:14:** "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."