

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 29:11–19

¹¹The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

¹³ And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught
by men,

¹⁴ therefore, behold, I will again
do wonderful things with this people,
with wonder upon wonder;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning
men shall be hidden."

¹⁵ Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your
counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

¹⁶ You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
that the thing made should say of its maker,
"He did not make me";
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,
"He has no understanding"?

¹⁷ Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful
field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a
forest?

¹⁸ In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

¹⁹ The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in
the Holy One of Israel.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:22–33

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to
the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the
wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his
body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church
submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in
everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the
church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might

sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of
water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present
the church to himself in splendor, without spot or
wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy
and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands
should love their wives as their own bodies. He
who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever
hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes
it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are
members of his body. ³¹"Therefore a man shall
leave his father and mother and hold fast to his
wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This
mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers
to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one
of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see
that she respects her husband.

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1–13

¹When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some
of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they
saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that
were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees
and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their
hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and
when they come from the marketplace, they do
not eat unless they wash. And there are many other
traditions that they observe, such as the washing
of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining
couches.) ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked
him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to
the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled
hands?" ⁶And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah
prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

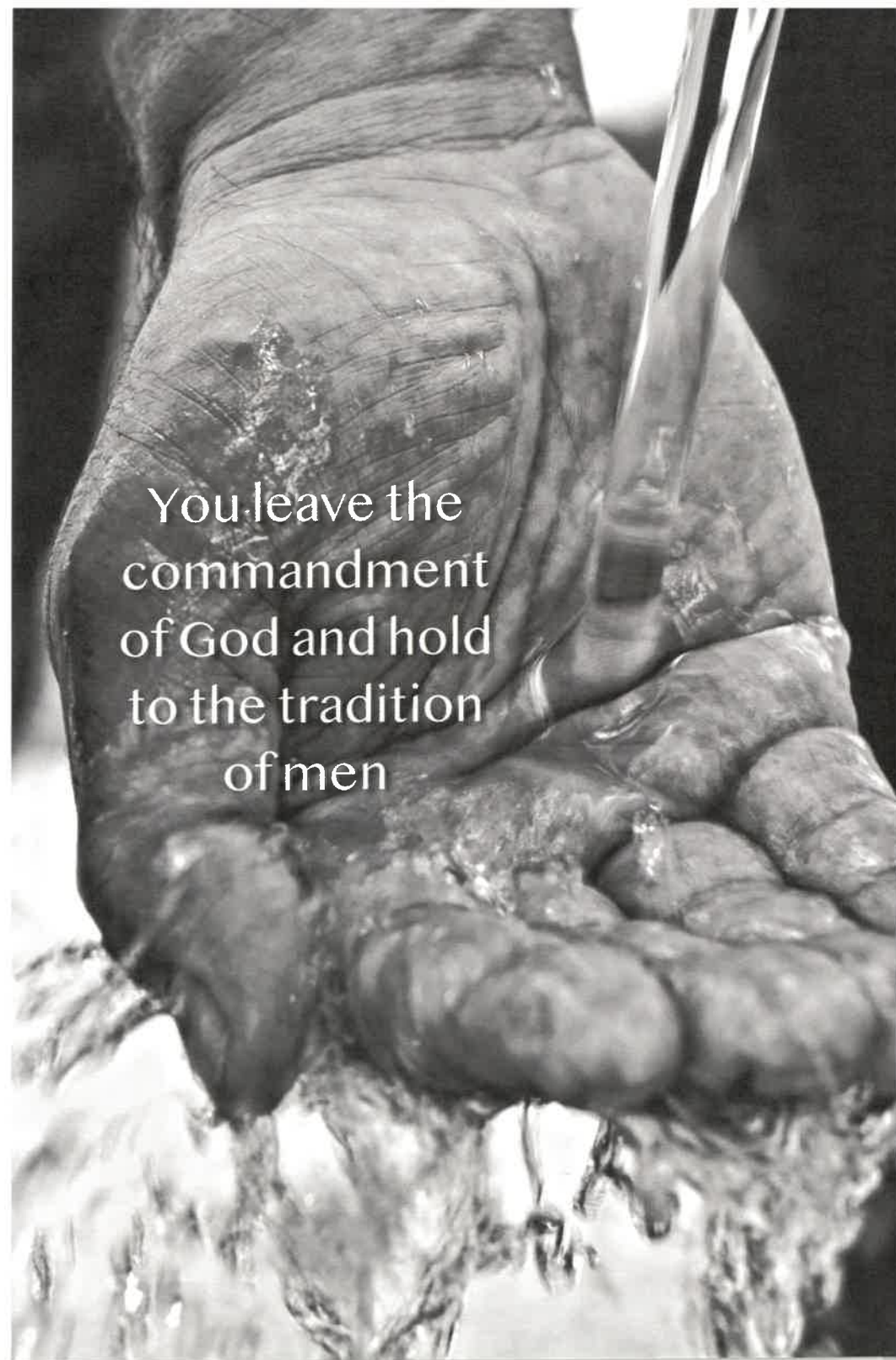
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of
men.'

⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold
to the tradition of men."

⁹And he said to them, "You have a fine way of
rejecting the commandment of God in order to
establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor
your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles
father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹But you say,
'If a man tells his father or his mother, 'Whatever
you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is,
given to God)—¹²then you no longer permit him to
do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making
void the word of God by your tradition that you have
handed down. And many such things you do."



About the Cover: The Pharisees and scribes created the ceremonial tradition of washing hands as an attempt to keep the command of God all the more faithfully. However, they did the opposite when they replaced God's command with their own tradition. God's command does not need anything added to it; it only demands to be kept. All have fallen short of the glory of God. But thanks and praise be to God that Jesus has kept and fulfilled all of God's commands perfectly for us. All who are in Him keep it by faith.



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