



REPLENISHED – Offence Matters 21st February 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

- Is it possible to miss out on what God is doing because you are too focused on your own agenda?
- Is it possible to be so intent on 'doing church', that you can miss out on God's purposes?
- Is it possible to create church or a Christian lifestyle that does not have Jesus at the centre?

Engage:

“People love religion. It's safe. It has ritual. We are in control. We set the rules.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

- Read [Matthew 15:13-14](#)
- Jesus' timing was so very crucial. Within 40 years of His ministry on earth Jerusalem would be ransacked by the Romans, and the temple burnt. Then another 65 years later during the Bar Kochba rebellion, the Romans would destroy the temple site and literally plough the entire site into the ground. Erecting in its place the Temple of Jupiter and banning Jewish people from Jerusalem.
- God knew these things were going to happen – Jesus' timing was a challenge to who?
- After the ministry of Jesus and the early church, Rabbinic Judaism began to move away from Biblical faith and towards the traditions of men. Read [Matthew 15:8-9](#) (Jesus warns them by quoting [Isaiah 29:13](#))

Framework:

- Jesus caused offence by criticising their ritual washing procedures. A bit like we have had for the last 12 months or so, singing happy birthday whilst we wash our hands. They had a similar routine, before they ate, they had to wash their hands in a certain way.
- In the Oral law at that time, they taught that you must wash your hands and rub them together whilst reciting Psalm 134:2. Then as you dried your hands you had to say 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe who has sanctified us by Thy commandments and commanded us concerning the washing of the hands.'

10. Of course we know that washing your hands before you eat is a good thing. But they had made it a religious ritual that meant if you didn't do it properly you would be unclean. Why did they do this?
11. Have we constructed our own fence that has become more important than what the Bible says?
12. Is your version of Christianity more important to you than Jesus'?
13. The religion of the scribes and Pharisees in this case, had caused them to lose all discernment. They could not see who Jesus was, they did not receive His teaching, they did not understand His interpretation of the Bible; even though He wrote it. And that is why they were offended. Is it possible for us to be this blind?
14. Read [Matthew 15:15-20](#)
 - Verse 17 in Greek is much more explicit. What He actually says is that it ends up down the toilet and that's finished with.
 - However, verse 18 reveals what is really in a person's heart. We can keep up a pretence in a religious church setting like the Pharisees did, but what are our hearts really like.
 - He knew that those who claimed to have the moral high ground, were nowhere with God. They were worried about the physical life, but He is focussing in on spiritual health. They had no discernment, and were unable to see the truth that Jesus was bringing to them. They were offended because they were religious.

“The Pharisees knew the Bible but they were holding their traditions as more important than the Bible itself. They were focussing on the physical life, rather than the spiritual life. They were just going through the motions, with zealously, but with nothing more than religion.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

15. In this particular case it was a religious spirit that caused them to be offended. If we are not careful, we can try to conform to outward holiness without inward transformation.
16. Read [2 Timothy 3:5](#)
 - We not only have to speak the words, we have to do the words.
 - We can't talk about God's love without modelling that love.
 - We cannot talk about the miraculous without living the miraculous.
 - We cannot talk about the generosity of God, without being generous.
 - We cannot talk about God's mercy, unless we are merciful.
 - We must speak the truth but also live the truth.
17. How can you model a Jesus shaped lifestyle if He does not live through you?
18. Maybe today, God is stirring your heart, maybe He is allowing things to happen to you for you to realise that you have created your own Christian lifestyle. A lifestyle that is based around “your own” standards and norms, rather than the teaching of the Bible. But are you listening?

Prayer:

“Dear Lord, help me to keep close to you and avoid religion. In Jesus Name Amen.”