

MATTHEW 15:7-11

⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.”

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a dark surface. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the pages and the spine of the book.

HANDLE IT

ACCURATELY

THAT SOUNDS SO SIMPLE

- Learning how to accurately handle the Bible can be quite a challenge, especially when you're first starting out. For whatever reason, many people come to conclusions that are wrong.
- As hard as it is to say, the fact that people can be wrong shouldn't surprise us. Jesus wasn't shocked (Mark 12:24, Matt. 22:29). Neither were the apostles (1 Tim. 6:20-21, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, Jude 11, 1 John 4:1-6). "False" is not an uncommon word in the New Testament (2 Cor. 11:26, Gal. 2:4, 2 Thess. 2:9-11).

WORDS MEAN SOMETHING



- "Speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent."
- The scriptures are both permissive and limiting. When we speak, we must do so as the "utterances of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). We must actively, positively preach the word (2 Tim. 4:2). But that is balanced by the need to avoid "self-made religion" (Col. 2:23). Silence is not necessarily permissive. In fact, it can be outright restrictive at times (Acts 15:24, 1 Cor. 4:6, Heb. 7:11-14, 2 John 9).

WORDS MEAN SOMETHING

- Avoid phrases like "The Bible says..." Give scriptures, not ideas.
- Watch out for confusing terminology.
- Keep a written log of important verses. This can be organized in a journal, or as notes in the back of your Bible. Utilize an electronic device if that works best for you.
- Challenge others who are mishandling the Bible. "When did Jesus actually say that?" The Lord confronted error (Matt. 21:23ff, Matt. 22:15ff).

A painting of a large, dark, textured rock formation in a green field. A monkey is visible on the left side of the image. The text "SEE THE BIG PICTURE" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

SEE THE BIG
PICTURE