

The image shows the spine of an old, thick book with many pages, bound in dark brown leather. The book is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its spine facing right. The pages are aged and yellowed, and the leather shows signs of wear and tear. The background is a dark, solid color, possibly black or dark brown, which makes the book and the text stand out.

# Matthew's Messiah

*The life and ministry of Jesus  
from Matthew's perspective*

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, **And why do you  
break the command of God  
for the sake of your tradition?**

4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'

<sup>5</sup> But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ <sup>6</sup> they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it.

Thus you nullify the word of God for  
the sake of your tradition.

<sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Isaiah was right  
when he prophesied about you:

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

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

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



12 Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

<sup>13</sup> He replied, Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.

15 Peter said,  
“Explain the parable to us.”

16 “Are you still so dull?”

Jesus asked them.

<sup>17</sup> Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

20 These are what defile a person;  
but eating with unwashed hands  
does not defile them.