Devotion Info
From the Heart

DAY 1 Read Matthew 15:1-9

Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat."

Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' "
Matthew 15:1-9 NLT

Jesus takes a very harsh tone with these particular Pharisees.

- What is at the core of their question that makes Jesus so upset?

DAY 2 Read Matthew 15:3-6

Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.
Matthew 15:3-6 NLT

- From the Pharisee's perspective, what about Jesus' response could come across as threatening to their way of life?

(Cont'd next page)

DAY 3 Read Matthew 15:10-11

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." Matthew 15:10-11 NLT

- Which of the following emotions has a way of becoming the *boss* of you?
  - Anger?
  - Envy?
  - Guilt?
  - Fear?

DAY 4 Read Matthew 15:10-11 again

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." Matthew 15:10-11 NLT

Think back to yesterday's question:

Which of the following emotions has a way of becoming the *boss* of you?

Anger? Envy? Guilt? Fear?

- What does it sound like (internally) when you're listening to the "boss" you identified in this question?
- What is an early indicator that you are about to hand over control to that particular emotion?

DAY 5 Read Matthew 15:10-11 again

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." Matthew 15:10-11 NLT

Thinking back again to the question:

Which of the following emotions has a way of becoming the *boss* of you?

Anger? Envy? Guilt? Fear?

- What regularly happens in your life that triggers that emotion?
- Instead of being bossed by the emotion, describe how you would ideally like to handle things when that situation occurs.