

# When Religion Blocks Revelation

*"Breaking Barriers, Receiving Revelation."*

**Mark 7:9-13 NLT** - Then he said, **"You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition. [10] For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.'** [11] 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.' [12] In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. [13] And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.

## Introduction

We are in a generation where many have the form of godliness but deny its power 2 Timothy 3:5 NLT - They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that. TThe Spirit of the Lord says: **"I am not found in rituals or traditions—I desire broken hearts, open ears, and surrendered lives"**

Religion is a lamp with no oil - it may shine for a moment, but without revelation it grows dim. Jesus warned: **"You cancel the Word of God in order to hand down your own tradition" (Mark 7:13 NLT)**. Religion blinds the eyes, hardens the heart, and silences God's power.

But God is raising a people who will not bow to systems of man, but walk in fresh revelation - knowing Him, embracing His grace, and yielding to His Spirit. Jesus Himself confronted this in His day:

- **A Pharisee who thought his prayers and fasting made him righteous, yet his pride blocked mercy.**

- **A rich young ruler who obeyed the commandments, yet missed the call to follow the Living Word.**
- **A council of elders who knew the Scriptures, but stoned Stephen rather than yield to the Spirit.**

So, let us open our hearts as we step into three warnings and three revelations:

### **1. Religion without relationship shuts the door to revelation.**

**Bible Story: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14).** The Pharisee prayed religiously, boasting of his fasting and tithing, but his heart was proud. The tax collector, broken and humble, cried for mercy and received justification before God. **Luke 18:14:** "I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

**Lesson:** The Pharisee's religion blocked revelation of God's mercy, while the tax collector's humility opened the door for God's presence.

**Connection Today:** Many rely on outward rituals - church attendance, fasting, or titles - without the humility of heart that allows God's revelation to transform them.

### **2. When human effort is glorified, the revelation of grace is veiled.**

**Bible Story: The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17–22).**

He kept the commandments faithfully, but when Jesus called him to surrender everything and follow Him, he walked away sorrowful. His reliance on religious observance blinded him from the revelation of grace and discipleship. **Mark 10:21, NLT-** Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. 'There is still one thing you haven't done,' he told him. 'Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

**Lesson:** Obedience to laws without surrender to Christ blocks the revelation of true righteousness.

**Connection Today:** People may say, “I do good deeds, I’m not a bad person,” but miss the grace and salvation that comes only through Christ.

### **3. When the Spirit is resisted, the power of God is rejected**

**Bible Story:** Stephen’s Martyrdom (Acts 6–7). Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, revealed God’s truth to the Jewish council. But the religious leaders, hardened by tradition, resisted the Spirit and stoned him. *Acts 7:51, NLT - You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you!”*

**Lesson:** Their rigid system blinded them to God’s new revelation through Christ.

**Connection Today:** Churches or individuals can reject prophetic voices, revival movements, or Spirit-led change because they fear losing tradition—thus missing God’s fresh revelation.

## **Conclusion**

**Jesus warned that holding into tradition can cancel the Word of God** (Mark 7:13 NLT). The Pharisee’s pride, the rich ruler’s works, and the council’s resistance all show how religion blocks revelation.

**The Spirit of the Lord says: “Do not let rituals replace My presence, works overshadow My grace, or tradition silence My Spirit. Open your heart, and I will pour fresh oil, fresh fire, and fresh revelation.”**

Let us be a people who walk in humility, surrender, and the power of the Spirit - so the lamp of religion is filled with the oil of revelation.