



## SUNDAY 16th AUGUST TRINITY 10 (Proper 15)



The reading today is *Matthew 15:1,2, 7-20*

You've probably learnt how to wash your hands really well since we've had the Coronavirus. So, you'll know that washing is a good way of getting rid of any germs on your hands. Today's reading is about washing hands too – but for a different reason! The religious leaders said that hand washing made them right with God – but Jesus did not agree! Read what he said...

### TODAY'S READING

You can read today's story in the Bible, Matthew 15: 1,2, 7-20.

There is a PowerPoint on the website called "Washing Hands" which explains what this story is about.

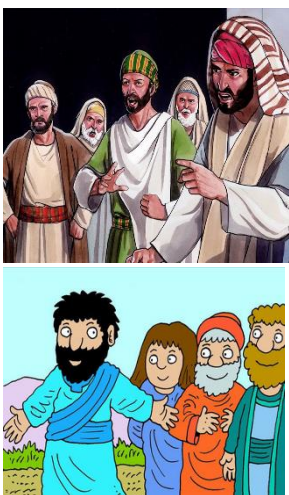
**Jesus seems to have often disagreed with the religious leaders.**

He said that they tried to teach God's law but not follow it themselves.

He said that they showed off, wearing special clothes and thinking they were the most important people.

See if you can find out anything about these people – **ZACCHAEUS** (Luke 19) **JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER** (Mark 5) What do you think the leaders thought about these two people? (Clue: They thought that women, children, anyone who worked for the Romans were unimportant!)

**HOW DO WE KNOW THAT JESUS DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS?**



### RULES, RULES, RULES!

Some rules are really important! Can you think of any rules that we have at the moment to help reduce the coronavirus spreading? Can you think of some of these rules?

**BUT**, Jesus says that following rules won't make us right with God. It is loving and following Jesus that is the only way we can do this.

Watch the PowerPoint again... can you make one or two of the slides out of Lego or other bricks? Or, perhaps you could draw one of the scenes from the PowerPoint, add some speech bubbles to show what you think the people in the story would be saying.

**THINK ABOUT...**  
Have you ever been really dirty? Maybe you'd been in the garden or outside all day. How does it feel to be washed and clean again? Usually it feels good to be clean!  
In the Old Testament part of the Bible there was advice about washing – it makes sense to keep clean – but the religious leaders had made washing into a list of rules which made no sense!  
*Try this... Use some water (outside if possible) Dip both hands in, rub the fist of one hand into the palm of the other, then swap. Now put all ten fingertips together high in the air and let the water run down to your elbows and then onto the floor.*  
*This is like what the leaders said you should do before eating, it was a rule that they had made up! What do you think of this?*

Finish your time by asking an adult if you could light a candle and play some gentle music.

*Quietly say thank you to God, either aloud or in your head, that you can come to him, talk to him and know how much he loves you, without needing to follow lots of hard rules!*